

Hafa Adai!

Wanted: Ivan Jones Castro. **PAGE 2**

MVA kicks off Flower Islands project. **PAGE 3**

75¢

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CHCC nurses struggle to extend stay

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

The 18 nurses of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. whose CW-1 visas are about to expire and the hospital's management team are

exhausting all efforts to renew or extend the nurses' working visas in the CNMI.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said the nurses need to stay so as not to disrupt operations of the Common-

See CHCC on Page 4

Eighteen Commonwealth Health Center nurses meet to go over the options available to them in terms of their continued employment and immigration status in the CNMI.

BEA CABRERA

IPI casino gets go-signal

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Saying it no longer has reason to say no, the Commonwealth Casino Commission gave Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC yesterday the go-signal to begin casino operations at the still-to-be completed Imperial Pacific Resort.

Ex-Rota cop found not guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former Rota police officer facing accusations of sexually abusing a minor was acquitted of all charges yesterday.

After about five hours of deliberations, the six jurors unanimously found the 49-year-old Melvin Maratita Manglona not guilty of two counts of sex abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Commission officials directed Imperial Pacific yesterday to move its live training facility inside the T Galleria to the planned casino area of the hotel premises.

It was understood that since only one casino may be open in the CNMI at a time, the training facility inside T Galleria should shut down either before or at the time of the

See IPI on Page 4

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who presided over the trial, found Manglona not guilty of disturbing the peace.

Although disappointed with **See EX-ROTA on Page 4**

Trailer drags cable, causes power outage

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A tractor-trailer with a 40-foot container of Best Sunshine accidentally dragged a Docomo

Pacific cable wire along Chalan Pale Arnold Road and toppled a telephone pole yesterday afternoon, triggering a power outage in Tanapag.

The dangling wire blocked

the entire four-lane highway in front of the Pacific Marina

See TRAILER on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crewmembers fix the power line along Chalan Pale Arnold in Tanapag yesterday afternoon. A tractor-trailer with a 40-footer container of Best Sunshine accidentally dragged a Docomo cable wire, causing a telephone pole to fall and triggering a power outage in the area.

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Marianas Visitors Authority joins the International Travel Expo Hong Kong.

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SCIENCE & TECH

Running a business can become a very sporadic proposition.

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LIFE & STYLE

20 years later, a new generation is finding out about Harry Potter.

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Local

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Wanted: Ivan Jones Castro

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a wanted person. On Tuesday, June 27, 2017, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio signed an arrest warrant for Ivan Jones Castro, 40, for failing to update his sex offender registration. Bail is set for \$25,000. Police have attempted to search and apprehend Castro at his last known address and other areas he has frequented but are unable to locate him. If spotted, call 911 or contact Crime Stop-



Castro

pers should you want to remain anonymous.

Castro is described as 5'7" tall, weighs 150 to 160 lbs, with black hair and brown eyes. DPS and Crime Stoppers need

your help. Please

contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (Saipan Tribune)

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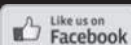
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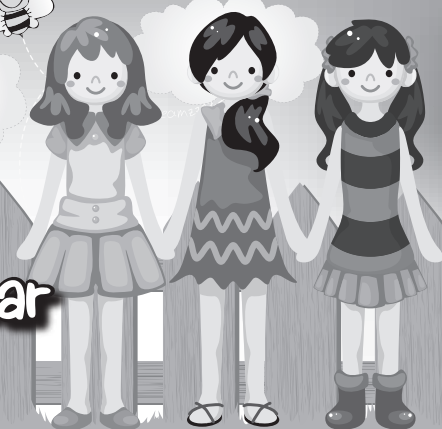


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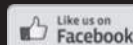


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MVA kicks off Flower Islands project

The Marianas Visitors Authority is moving forward with its Flower Islands Project, which aims to transform the islands into a flower-dotted destination.

With the guidance of internationally renowned landscape architect Junichi Inada, famed for helping create the Garden City of Singapore, the MVA held a series of meetings to share the vision of the project with the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Public Lands, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Public Works, Division of Parks & Grounds, Division of Forestry, and Micronesia Islands Natural Alliance.

During his visit, Inada also assessed current landscape in public areas and tourist sites on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The Flower Islands Project aims to increase the competitiveness of the Marianas by rejuvenating our islands with trees and colorful flowers incorporated into our professional landscape architecture.

At the same time, this new branding will create new business opportunities," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "As the Flower Islands of the Pacific, we will create memorable experiences with visitors, engaging all five senses. We invite the entire Marianas community to become a part of this plan."

The Flower Islands Project master plan now under development will include long-and short-term phases providing workable guidelines on its implementation.

"The plan will be shared with government agencies, private sector, schools and colleges to encourage everyone's participation and contribution in achieving one common

goal," said MVA Product Development manager Tatiana Babauta. "In addition to boosting tourism, it will also develop natural habitats for trees and flowers, filter stormwater, and provide educational opportunities for plant propagation. And just imagine all the great photo opportunities!"

Phase I of the plan will include a conceptual directional master plan for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; a schematic plan for the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport, Rota International Airport, and Banzai Cliff; a conceptual computer graphic montage for the Saipan airport, Tinian airport, Rota airport, and Airport Road toward Beach Road on

See MVA on Page 4

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Clarence Tenorio Sr. is LibDay parade marshal

Clarence Tenorio Sr., co-owner of Joeten Enterprises and a stalwart in the local business scene, will be the marshal of the 2017 Liberation Day parade.

According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, the marshal position is given to a person who has diligently served the island of Saipan.

Apatang told the *Saipan Tribune* that government officials usually fill the marshal position because of their service but, for the first time in Liberation Day history, a



Photo shows Clarence Tenorio Sr. at his office at the Joeten supermarket in Susupe.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

businessman will lead the parade on July 4.

Tenorio is the second generation of Tenorios to run Joeten Enterprises. He is the eldest of six.

As a young boy, Tenorio found joy in helping his mother and father run their small mom-and-pop store. He is still amazed at how much it has branched out in the span of his lifetime.

Described as a kind, simple, and outgoing man, Tenorio still runs the company with his siblings, guiding the third generation of Tenorios.

According to Apatang, Joeten Enterprises was one of the first business establishments on Saipan. It was the first business of its kind and paved the way for more entrepreneurs to take the leap and to start their business.

Joeten Enterprises has also given back to the community in more ways than one.

Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*

that this is their way of giving back to the community that has helped his family's company become what it is today.

Tenorio's favorite part of co-running his family's business is the people he has met over the years.

Tenorio is beyond honored that the committee chose him to lead the parade this July 4. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

MVA

From Page 3

Saipan; a topographical study model of Saipan, Tinian,

Rota, and schematic image model of the Saipan airport; consultation on lighting posts beautification along the Beach Road pathway; consultation on horticultural

nurseries on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; consultation on acquisition of plants for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; consultation on acquisition of horticultural equipment

for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; and consultation and coordination in regards to hanging flower baskets on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. **(Saipan Tribune)**

EX-ROTA

From Page 1

the verdict, Chief Prosecutor Michele Harris told *Saipan Tribune* that they will remain vigilant in seeking justice in cases involving sexual abuse of a minor.

"No victim should ever suffer in silence," said Harris, who assisted assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio in prosecuting the case.

In rendering his verdict, Camacho said he carefully considered the testimonies and credibility of the witnesses, the exhibits introduced into evidence, and the arguments of counsels.

Camacho found that the government has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Manglona is guilty of the crime of disturbing the peace.

The judge said the repeated verbal and written denials by the 14-year-old girl and her complete denial in court left him with reasonable doubts.

"The court reaches this decision not by ignoring contrasting and conflicting evidence but rather after considering all evidence," Camacho said.

Camacho stated that the girl testified that everything she told a teacher, the police, and prosecutors were lies and untrue—meaning that Manglona

did not sexually abuse her.

None of the other government witnesses saw what happened, he said.

"It is easy to speculate and guess that maybe it could have happened. Guessing is not evidence," said Camacho, pointing out that the law requires that crimes are proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

In this case, Camacho noted, there is no DNA, no marks or scratches, and no physical evidence.

The judge said the girl, who is the only witness, when questioned by attorneys of both parties, testified that Manglona did not sexually abuse her.

Camacho said there is

also testimony by other witnesses that the girl told them that Manglona sexually abused her.

"Both versions are equally believable. Both versions are believable but both cannot be true," he said.

Camacho said a finding of guilt cannot be based on "maybe it happened, maybe it did not happen."

The government alleged that Manglona sexually abused the girl last July and August 2016 on Rota. The trial began on Monday. The prosecution called a total of 10 witnesses, including the girl.

Defense counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for Manglona, did not call any witness.

CHCC

From Page 1

wealth Health Center and lose the quality of healthcare of current patients.

"It is the harm that we are trying to avoid, harm to our patients and eventually to the community. That is why we are exhausting all options to keep the nurses in the hospital," said Muña.

"They are not just clinical nurses," Muña added. "They are specialized nurses that took specific courses to be qualified with the work that they do now."

The nurses face the threat of being sent home because of inaction on their employment petitions for fiscal year 2018. Also, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to release the receipts of these employment petitions.

CHCC did try to avail of the 240-day extension USCIS gave for CW-1 workers but was later told to show the receipts from the employment petitions, which USCIS has yet to release in the first place. The petitions were submitted on April 10, 2017.

Ray Alejandro, head nurse

at the CHC intensive care unit, related that some nurses were set to leave on June 29, 30, or July 1, 2017, but were forced to reschedule their departure to July 1 "because we are having meetings and discussions to know our short- and long-term options."

"We worry about our patients. All the 18 nurses represent critical positions in the hospital," added Alejandro.

Five of the affected nurses are from the CHC emergency room, four are from ICU, two are from neo-natal ICU, two are from the operating room, two are from medical and surgical, one is from pediatric, one is from labor and delivery, and one is from dialysis.

Uncertainties about their immigration petitions are on top of other problems.

Bernard Gaspar, a staff nurse at the ICU, said, "If we do not get extended, we will have to go home and it is not guaranteed that there is a job open for us in October. Right now we are faced with uncertainty."

"One, it is hard for us to plan our lives long-term on island. An example would be our apartments. Should we keep it and pay for rent and

utilities even if we are away or should we give it up and face the hardship of looking for a place to stay when we come back?

"Two, our leave credits were our saving grace. If our employment petition to start in October 2017 is approved by USCIS, our absence from the island and hospital will be credited to the leaves that we rightfully gained and the pay we get from that will keep us afloat while unemployed."

"Third, we lose our benefits. If we leave on July 1 without getting renewed, we lose employment status at CHCC and with it goes our benefits, especially our health insurance coverage," Gaspar said.

The uprooting of her family from Saipan is the hardest for Rosalie Garcia, a staff nurse at ER.

"I have worked at CHCC for almost eight years and at the Rota Health Center for more than five years and this situation we are in is a very big problem because it affects my family, especially my kids. It is very hard for me to see my son and hear him say he doesn't want to go. He attends school here at Hopwood

Middle School and have established friendship with other kids. If we go home, it is like a bad dream."

Another problem the nurses face is the lack of coordination between USCIS and the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines.

"The U.S. Embassy in the Philippines is not aware of the 240-day extension they give to CW-1 workers. Granted that we are given the 240-day extension on Saipan, the data that the U.S. Embassy have in the Philippines would show we are overstaying," Gaspar said.

"This is the talk that's been going around and we don't want to be blacklisted. The U.S. Embassy in the Philippines puts people who violate visa agreements on a blacklist," Gaspar added.

Muña said that she and her staff have been constantly following up with USCIS.

"We consider these nurses family. They belong to the community and they continue to contribute through their labor and care for patients. We want the USCIS to know that we have to put healthcare a priority and more so with the people that provide them," said Muña.

TRAILER

From Page 1

Commercial Center. No one was reported injured in the accident that happened at about 4pm, *Saipan Tribune* learned from witnesses.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the scene at 5pm, a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. bucket truck had just started to fix the affected power line.

Witnesses said the tractor-trailer was traveling south when the container's top snagged the Docomo cable, dragging it and causing the telephone pole to fall. As a result, a CUC hypertension wire was cut, triggering a power

outage in the area.

The driver stopped the trailer just near the toppled pole. A second trailer with a container stopped a few meters away from the dangling cable.

A Department of Public Works employee said the trailer with the container that caused the accident is about 14 and a half feet tall.

It's not clear whether the cable was too low or the container was just too high.

Police re-routed traffic to the Tanapag area.

Police and CUC are still investigating the accident.

A DPW staff said a vehicular accident near the area also caused a power outage last Wednesday night.

IPI

From Page 1

transfer. If it chooses to do so, Imperial Pacific has the option not to use its hotel casino premises; regardless, the lifetime of the live training facility inside T Galleria would end on Aug. 31, 2018.

According to IPI officials, they plan to hold a mini grand opening this July 15; however, they have the option to open at an earlier date.

The lottery commission also met yesterday to amend the license agreement, including allowing the casino to operate even without a finished hotel room yet. The casino license agreement initially required the hotel to have at least 250 rooms of 5-star hotel quality before being allowed to open a casino.

"Currently, there are no hotel rooms finished," said CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

The question became whether the current condition of Imperial Pacific Resort satisfied the definition of an initial gaming facility, or IGF, under the casino license agreement.

During discussions at the CCC meeting, they received word that the lottery commission license agreement amendment was signed by acting governor Victor B. Hocog, allowing CCC to grant IPR permission to transfer their live training facility known as Best Sunshine Live to the IGF in Garapan.

"They were in compliance with the requirements that we set as of today," said Deleon Guerrero.

Lottery Commission amendments

The CNMI Lottery Commission met yesterday to amend Section 10 of the casino license agreement, or CLA.

The commission amended the CLA in two parts. First, allowing the IGF to be completed in phases and operations of casino. Other facilities may commence in phases given that the completion of the IGF is completed within the schedule provided in the CLA, which is Aug. 31, 2018.

The commission also amended the requirement to transfer operations of the live training facility in T Galleria to the hotel casino premises. Prior to the amendment, the requirement was that Imperial Pacific must already have at least 250 hotel rooms of 5-star hotel quality up and ready for guests.

Yesterday, the commission inserted language in the CLA to allow the transfer prior to the completion of 250 rooms.

"... Amending the CLA to allow the licensee [Imperial Pacific] to transfer the gaming operations from the T Galleria to the IGF before the complete construction of the IGF is in the best interest of the CNMI and [Imperial Pacific]," wrote CLA amendment no. 4.

Imperial Pacific officials earlier pointed out that a larger venue for gaming would create more jobs and possibly increase gaming revenue. With the increase in gaming revenue, there is also an increase in tax revenue for the CNMI.

Imperial Pacific has already paid in excess of \$40.9 million in business gross revenue tax for fiscal year 2017.

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MVA

Japan recording artist Sing-O films his latest music video at Agingan Point on June 20, 2017, while in the Marianas.



MVA

Japan recording artist Sing-O, left, pays a courtesy call on Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, right, at his office on June 21, 2017. At center is MVA Japan in-country manager Takashi Ichikura.

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Sing-O films music video in the Marianas

Japanese recording artist Sing-O was in the Marianas last week to film the music video for his recently released summer song.

On June 19-22, Sing-O filmed at various locations on Saipan with ocean, beach and mountain views, including Agingan Point, Sugar Dock, Micro Beach, and Mt. Ta-pochao.

"Sing-O has a strong following on Facebook, YouTube, and Amebloin Japan," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, who met with the singer on June 21, 2017. "He has a large fan base of music lovers in their 20s to 50s, and we're pleased to reach that audience with the stunning natural images that the Marianas is so well known for."

The music video will be released on Aug. 1, 2017, bringing an estimated \$10,000 advertising exposure value to the Marianas. (MVA)

CAMPUS BULLETIN

GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. (PR)

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. (PR)

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2 men re-arrested for trafficking, 'ice' possession

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A suspected distributor of methamphetamine or "ice" and another man who had been found with "ice" were re-arrested on Wednesday.

Milton B. Camacho, 36, and Froilan Mendiola Camacho, 46, were re-arrested after the Office of the Attorney General revoked their release on their own recognizance.

The OAG allege that both have failed in their promises to help law enforcers with ongoing investigations.

At a hearing yesterday,

Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo re-imposed the \$100,000 cash bail on Milton Camacho and \$50,000 cash bail on Froilan Camacho. Preliminary hearing in both cases will be on July 6 at 9am.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for both suspects. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

According to the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force, Milton Camacho was arrested on Oct. 31, 2016, for trafficking and illegal possession of "ice," while Froilan Camacho

was arrested on May 31, 2017 for illegal possession of "ice."

Upon their arrest, the Camachos agreed to serve as confidential informants in exchange for their release on their own recognizance but Hinds moved on Wednesday to revoke their release for not complying with the conditions of their release.

Task force officer Rudolph C. Sablan Jr. stated in his report that a "cooperating source" disclosed on March 31, 2016, that Milton Camacho sells "ice" in Chalan Kanoa.

The "cooperating source" alleged that Milton Camacho,

who gets his "ice" supply from a woman at a dress shop in Chalan Kanoa, offered to buy meth from him.

The "cooperating source" managed to buy \$160 worth of 0.9 gross grams of "ice" from Milton Camacho during a controlled "buy-walk operation" at his home in Chalan Kanoa on April 21, 2016.

Sablan said the seized crystal-like substance tested presumptive positive for crystal meth.

In Froilan Camacho's case, Hinds said police officers executed a search warrant at the home on Navy Hill related to a criminal investigation on May 31, 2017.

Hinds said investigators discovered two baggies containing 0.7 gross grams of crystal-like substance and other

drug paraphernalia inside the defendant's pants that were hanging on the wall. The substance later tested presumptive positive for meth.

Froilan Camacho allegedly admitted owning the drugs.

CUC sets water outage

There will be a water service interruption in Kattan Hudda Drive and San Vicente areas due to a new waterline connection. The replacement of the waterline will provide a more effective and efficient operation.

Installation of the new waterline is scheduled to begin today, June 30, 2017, from

12pm to 3pm. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected area should expect restoration of water service soon after.

For more information, contact CUC Customer Call Center 664-4282 or visit <http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>. (Saipan Tribune)



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Translocations increase Pacific bird species populations

With the revision of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's CNMI Wildlife Action Plan, acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary Anthony Benavente said the translocation of more Pacific bird species has been successful.

"The CNMI's Wildlife Action Plan was last completed in 2005 which served as the broad vision for conservation in the CNMI for the next 10 years, including objectives for priority species and actions needed. Our team has gone on many expeditions to complete these efforts and our bird populations are increasing," he said.

Benavente noted that the Guaman expeditions included the translocation of 54 Tinian monarchs, 48 bridled white-eyes, 54 rufous fantails, and 24 Mariana fruit-doves in May.

During the Sarigan expedition, the team conducted post-translocation surveys, with populations estimated at 713 for golden white-eye, 89 for Mariana fruit-dove, 1092 for rufous fantail, and 9120 for bridled white-eye.

During these expeditions, DLNR documented successful breeding, including nest building. Unbanded birds were observed among the Tinian monarch and surveys were done of vegetation, forest birds, reptiles, and coconut crab in Aguiguan expeditions and additional surveys of Mariana swiftlet, and Pacific sheath-tailed bat.

According to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, there have been many notable successes over the last few years in the conservation of many rare species.

"It was not too long ago that this translocation of bird species took place and now the new populations in the Northern Islands have greatly reduced the likelihood of extinction," Torres said.

With 14 islands under

the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands including offshore banks,

reefs and submerged lands, the Wildlife Action Plan has made remarkable progress, Torres said.

Benavente said that post-release monitoring of these species is ongoing. (*Saipan Tribune*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Garapan Fishing Base boat ramp closed temporarily

The Garapan Fishing Base boat ramp and its parking facility will be closed to all vessels effective Wednesday, June 28, 2017, until Wednesday July 5, 2017. This is to provide access and parking to Liberation Festival patrons. Please use the Smiling Cove Marina boat ramp at this time. For questions, call 664-6000. (PR)

Lower Base transfer station, Marpi landfill closed on July 4

In observance of Independence Day on Tuesday, July 4, 2017, both the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi landfill will be closed all day. Regular operations resume Wednesday, July 5, 2017. (PR)

Deadline for notaries to submit journals

The Office of the Attorney

General is reminding all notaries in the Commonwealth that they are required to submit a copy of their journals on or before today, June 30, 2017, or face sanctions, including revoking the notary public commission, or the assessment of a fine of \$100 to \$500. For more information, contact Esther San Nicolas Nesbitt at the OAG's Civil Division at 237-7500, or through email at esther_nesbitt@cnmioag.org. (PR)

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Summertime at Hyatt



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Enjoy culinary classics and hula performances as Kili Café & Terrace hosts a dinner buffet experience on June 22, from 6pm to 9pm, showcasing *kama'aina* (local) favorites of the Hawaiian islands. Buffet includes free-flowing craft beer from Saipan Brewing Co. The cost is \$55 per person an \$35 for Club At The Hyatt members. For more information and reservations, call 234-1234 ext. 26.

Relax poolside and enjoy the July sun. Ask one of our guest service members about our poke special at the Splash poolside bar. Priced at \$15 per dish.

Freshness and brightness are key elements in our new pasta creation: *Cappellini e astice a sapori de estate* at Giovanni's. Chef de cuisine Reiji Yoshizawa and executive chef Gabriele Colombo bring the soul of Italian cooking infused with the essence of the summer season. Priced at \$55 per dish, the *Cappellini e astice ai sapori di estate* at Giovanni's will be available from July 1 to Aug. 31.

Tenderness and flavor are main components in the Taste of Saipan menu at Teppanyaki—a six-course set menu. Priced at \$55 per person, the Taste of Saipan at Teppanyaki will be available from July 1 to Aug. 1.

Spend your summer at Camp Hyatt. For young guests between the ages of 4 to 12 years, Camp Hyatt offers day programs from Monday to Friday. Camp Hyatt also offers a discounted rate for two or more children to join a program together. So, gather your friends, cousins, or neighbors and join a program today! Twenty-four-hour advance registration is required. For more information and registration, call Club Elan at 234-1234 Ext. 25.

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The following is a list of accounts on deposit with First Hawaiian Bank: Checking accounts which have been inactive for 6 months or more; and Savings, Maximizer, and Money Market Accounts which have been inactive for 24 months or more as of 6/23/17. The funds from these accounts are scheduled to be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of Oct 2017. This is in compliance with the amendment to Section 20-20.4-005 (b) of the Northern Mariana Island Administrative Code Title 20 Department of Commerce Regulations. If your name is listed, please contact the Customer Consultant or Service Manager at First Hawaiian Bank, Gualo Rai or Oleai Branch, as soon as possible.

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DLNR gets funding for plant program on Rota

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources was recently awarded a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund to survey and propagate endangered plants on Rota.

According to acting DLNR secretary Anthony Benavente, this is a continuation of work that the DLNR Rota Forestry office has been carrying out for the past two decades.

Rota forester James Manglona noted that the public is encouraged to embrace Rota’s rarest plant species.

“The key to the success of this program is to gain the public’s support and cooperation. The community will benefit through school outreach programs, research opportunities and tourism,” Manglona said.

DLNR staff will survey for three endangered plants across Rota, which include the *Serianthes nelsonii* (Fire tree or Trongkon guafi), *Osmoxylon mariannese*, and the *Nesogenes rotensis*, to obtain a current population count and document the location and health of each individual.

“All three species are listed as federally endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and *Serianthes* is also listed as locally endangered. These three plants are unique to the Mariana Islands with the *Osmoxylon* and *Nesogenes* found only on Rota, while *Serianthes* is found on both Rota and Guam,” he said.

These plant species have been affected by habitat clearing and browsing by deer, with rats eating seeds and preventing regeneration.

“The propagation and planting program will increase the wild population of these three species and bring them closer to recovery. Seeds are collected from the wild, grown in the Rota Forestry nursery and once old enough they will be planted on Rota’s conservation areas,” Manglona said.

Manglona noted that some trees that were planted 15-20 years ago are now producing their own seeds, which perpetuate the success of the program.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that conservation and the preservation of endangered species is an ongoing priority for all natural resources throughout the island chain. **(PR)**



THANK YOU, MCDONALD’S!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang accepts a \$3,000 donation for the 2017 CNMI Liberation Day festivities from McDonald’s Saipan owner Marcia Ayuyu and employee Amalia Ibnez while PR & Sponsorship chair Laila Boyer looks on at the flagship store in Chalan Laulau.

The following is a list of accounts on deposit with First Hawaiian Bank: Checking accounts which have been inactive for 6 months or more; and Savings, Maximizer, and Money Market Accounts which have been inactive for 24 months or more as of 6/23/17. The funds from these accounts are scheduled to be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of Oct 2017. This is in compliance with the amendment to Section 20-20.4-005 (b) of the Northern Mariana Island Administrative Code Title 20 Department of Commerce Regulations. If your name is listed, please contact the Customer Consultant or Service Manager at First Hawaiian Bank, Gualo Rai or Oleai Branch, as soon as possible.

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MVA debuts at int'l travel exposition in Hong Kong

For the first time ever, the Marianas Visitors Authority joined the annual International Travel Expo Hong Kong and MICE Travel Expo to promote the Marianas.

On June 15, the MVA joined Brand USA at the 31st ITE Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, sharing the allures of the Marianas with expo attendees.

"Our message was that our unique natural tourism resources, fascinating historical and cultural customs, and

wonderful leisure holiday experience make the Marianas the best choice for Chinese tourists in Hong Kong and South China," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

One highlight of the expo was Concepcion's appointment of 2013 Miss China Universe Jin Ye as honorary tourism ambassador for the Marianas. Jin shared memories of her recent visit to Saipan with the attending media and audience, sharing the charm of the high-end

holiday experience she had in the Marianas.

"Ms. Jin has a fresh and vigorous image as well as a really easygoing personality. She is the perfect match for the Marianas," said Concepcion. "In addition, she is also a traveling talent who challenges herself and enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities. We believe that in our one-year partnership with Ms. Jin, we will be able to demonstrate the enchanting charm of the Marianas to the people of China."

So far this fiscal year, the

Marianas has welcomed 146,159 visitors from China, comprising 34 percent of all visitors to the islands. China is the second largest source market this fiscal year, after South Korea, and the number of Chinese visitors has shown steady, above average monthly growth.

This year in China, the MVA has promoted "The Marianas" brand image to create an international image for Saipan, Tinian and Rota as a destination with high renown, yet still unique. With the launch



2013 Miss China Universe Jin Ye accepts her appointment as honorary tourism ambassador by the Marianas Visitors Authority at the 31st International Travel Expo Hong Kong on June 15, 2017. Pictured from left are MVA Beijing marketing manager Adam Li, MVA HQ marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, Jin, MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, and MVA Guangzhou marketing manager Yukee Chen.

MVA

of "Marianas Sports Season," "Marianas Taste Season," and other promotional themes, the MVA has also helped create diverse travel options for travelers.

In addition to non-stop flights from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, nearly 20 cities in China have connections to the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport. Hong Kong Airlines

and HK Express both opened direct flights from Hong Kong to Saipan in July 2016 and January 2017, respectively. In addition, HK Express also added extra flights starting this summer, providing flights to Saipan every day except Fridays. The convenient air routes have helped create many varied travel options for visitors from Hong Kong and South China. (MVA)



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, fourth from right, joins other representatives of the Brand USA pavilion at the 31st International Travel Expo Hong Kong on June 15, 2017. The Marianas has direct flights from Hong Kong served by Hong Kong Airlines and HK Express.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

India as ally: Ties with Modi make a good balance with China

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Washington and met with President Donald Trump on Monday. It is easy to see why the president is paying attention to this Indian leader. He is clearly in the same league of world leaders as China's Xi Jinping; Russia's Vladimir Putin, whom Trump has not yet met with as president; Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan; and Germany's Angela Merkel.

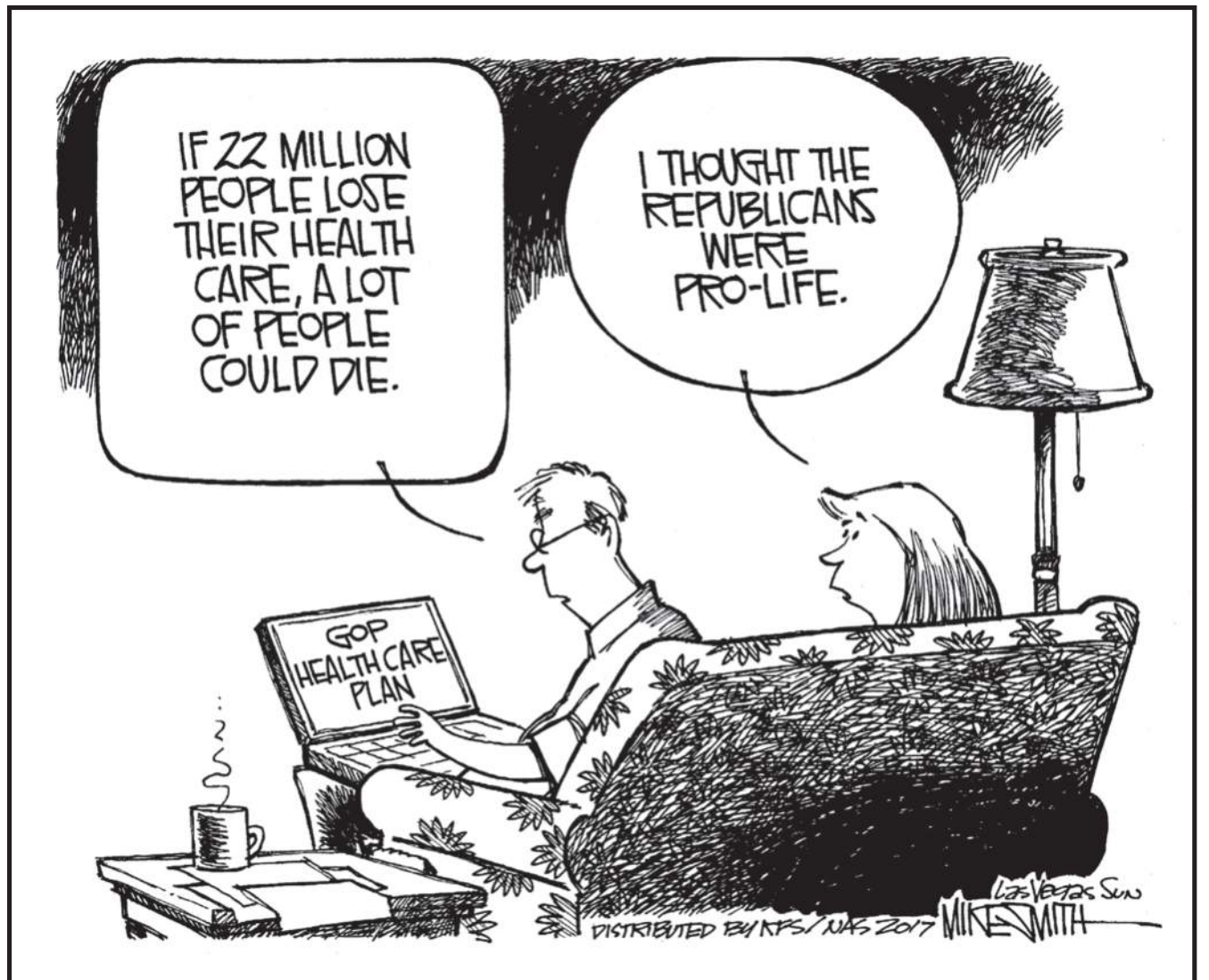
Indian-American economic and commercial involvement is plain to see, although Trump's emphasis on trying to sell India military equipment seems to be something of a mis-emphasis. The United States is India's best customer for its exports. America is the fourth-largest supplier of India's imports; China is first.

Given America's continuing involvement in its now 16-year-old war in Afghanistan, it is necessary for Trump to be aware of the geopolitics of South Asia in his interactions with Modi. India continues to see Pakistan as its primary enemy in the region. Both nations have nuclear weapons. There is some rivalry between them for influence in Afghanistan. In general, the United States continues to see some of Pakistan's government and military tie-in to the Taliban, the nominal opponent of the Ashraf Ghani government that we support, as unhelpful. Some would even say Pakistan is indispensable to the Taliban. But America is obliged to watch Pakistan closely for a variety of reasons.

There is also to keep in mind the simmering rivalry between two of the behemoths of Asia, China and India, both with populations over 1 billion. There was war in the past, and continuing sometime incidents between them, most recently Tuesday in Sikkim. China, too, has nuclear weapons. Both its leader, Xi, and Modi also have big ambitions, for themselves and for their countries.

In seeking to sell India more weapons, Trump is not splashing around in the baby pool and should take great care to weigh whatever he promises to Modi in the context of both South Asian and overall Asian politics. That said, his developing a relationship with Modi is very much worth the trouble.

(c)2017 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



The mystery of making babies

By way of a break in this polarized era, let's briefly consider the single topic that men and women of every culture and nationality have happily agreed on, from the beginning of time to this very minute—babies are good. But until astonishingly recent times, nearly every aspect of where babies come from was utterly mysterious.

The titans of the scientific revolution had no notion. Leonardo da Vinci did not know, Galileo did not know, Isaac Newton did not know.

They knew, that is, that men and women have sex and as a result, sometimes, babies, but they did not know how those babies are created. They did not know that women produce eggs, and when they finally discovered sperm cells, they did not divine that those wriggly tadpoles had anything to do with babies and pregnancy. (The leading theory was that they were parasites, perhaps related to the newly discovered mini-creatures that swam in drops of pond water. This was Newton's view.)

For centuries, scientists struggled to find out if the woman merely provides a fertile field for the man's seed, or if she produces some kind of seed of her own. They did not know how twins come to be. (Too much semen? Two bouts of sex in quick succession? Sex with two different men?)

They did not know if conception is more likely on the night of a full moon or a new moon or if timing makes any difference at all. They did not know, though they assumed, that a baby has only one father, as it has only one mother. They did not know why babies resemble their parents, and sometimes one parent more than the other.

This was not because our scientific predecessors were foolish. Many were dazzlingly intelligent and diligent. But nature guards her secrets closely. For one thing, sperm and egg are hidden and tiny. The human egg, though it is the largest cell in the body, is only the size of the period at the end of this sentence. Sperm cells are the smallest in the body, far too little to see with the naked eye. (An egg outweighs the sperm cell that fertilizes it by a million to one, the difference between a Thanksgiving turkey and a housefly.)

Religious faith made discovery all the more challenging. In the early years of the modern age, science and religion were not rivals but allies. All the great lights of the scientific revolution were devout. All of them took for granted that, by studying God's works, they were exalting his creation. But God was not simply the Creator who had shaped the stars and planets and

By **EDWARD DOLNICK**
Los Angeles Times

Edward Dolnick is the author of *The Seeds of Life: From Aristotle to da Vinci, from Sharks' Teeth to Frogs' Pants, the Long and Strange Quest to Discover Where Babies Come From*. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



sculpted the whale's fin, the eagle's beak, and Adam and Eve; he was the only being with the power to create life. How could it be, then, that an ordinary couple huffing and puffing in the dark could create a new being? This riddle preoccupied the West's greatest thinkers for more than two centuries.

Two more problems conspired to befuddle our scientific ancestors. One was practical. Virtually without exception, the scientists wrestling with the mystery of life were men. More than that, they took for granted that women were their physical and mental inferiors. Aristotle spoke for many when he described females as "mutilated males."

Since the scientists' goal was to understand how men and women, together, create babies, to start with the assumption that one of the two participants wasn't up to much was to ask for trouble.

A second problem was more abstract. The seemingly straightforward question where do babies come from led scientists into a philosophical fog; they found they had to grapple with the far more slippery what is the nature of life?

It took until 1875 to sort out the riddle of sperm and egg. That spring, a vain, grumpy German scientist named Oscar Hertwig stared down a microscope at a sea urchin egg. (The eggs were a scientific favorite because they were see-through and, if you happened to have any extras at the end of the day, delicious.) Hertwig pushed a drop of sea urchin semen near the egg and saw what no one had ever seen until that moment: the process of fertilization play out in full view.

Today, scientists still cannot explain one of the simplest questions of all—not where do babies come from, but where does consciousness come from? Why is it that a robot, even one that can find its way around the room and beep and blink and play

See MYSTERY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Work and balance

As the summer travel season gets rolling there will be the inevitable discussions about how much, if any, work should be taken on vacation. It's cool to read a novel poolside; hey, that's not work, unless maybe you're a novelist.

On the other hand, if you're combing through a 6-inch stack of greenbar printouts so you can review your 120-day aged receivables, it might not be so cool, especially if you're wearing black socks with zoris and an aloha shirt.

Of course, the real story is connectivity. Most people aren't hauling physical files around. The office is now as close as your smartphone.

With this in mind, the term "work-life balance" is often used these days. The term is an echo of a similar two-tailed distinction in labor economics; in the economics realm, "labor" means time working and "leisure" means time not working.

In the annals of economics, oceans of ink—enough to float Managaha Island—have been expended scribing graphs that analyze a worker's theoretical strategies to optimize the labor vs. leisure tradeoff.

But hand-held computing introduces a new wrinkle: Discussions about modern life mention that people seem perpetually tied to the office via the connectivity leash. How much of this is compelled by an employer and how much is, by contrast, driven by the preferences of the worker is a distinction worth pondering.

It's not the mere existence of an electronic leash that's at issue. I remember pagers and old-school cell phones. I don't recall people finding those devices satisfying to use for the mere sake of using them. The leash was a self-limiting proposition.

Preliminaries into 2018

Political pundits and experts have been making preliminary trips to the political landscape for 2018. The place is trashed with complacency, laziness, inertia and disgust.

It should be an interesting slugfest between incumbent governor Ralph DLG Torres against whoever emerges the high-wattage challenger. It would be a highly coveted contest of the incumbent versus a standard bearer from the Democratic Party or independent group.

Herein lies the challenge: organization down to village level networking in all three inhabited islands. It's a highly slippery slope where support could instantly wane or disappear where unity is fragile.

On the flip side, Torres the incumbent turns into an automatic wide-open target for all the things he did or didn't do. Alleged Lt. Gov. Biktot Hokog has inflicted irreversible collateral damage. This gives any formidable opponent a field day with materials and narrative he could fire from across the bow, unimpeded. It should prove an interesting contest of wits. In silence, it's also a contest of sugar daddies!

Fiscal posture: Has the NMI taken stock of its fiscal posture or has this been relegated to polished vagaries where we'd end up parroting Gomer Pyle's famous expression, "Surprise, surprise, surprise" when we're literally bankrupt?

I raise the question in view of Puerto Rico's \$73 billion debt followed by the Virgin Island's \$6.5 billion deficit. Both are stuck in the filthy swamp of debts; money markets refuse to lend money to either territory.

A recent NYT story says, "The sudden cash crunch was a warning sign that the financial troubles that brought Puerto Rico to its knees could soon spread. All of America's far-flung territories, among them American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands appear vulnerable."

"I don't think you can say it's a crisis, but they have challenges—high debt, weak economies and unfunded pensions," said Jim Millstein, who has reviewed the situation in Guam and the Virgin Islands. He called the combination of challenges in the territories "a recipe for trouble in the future." Are we headed that way too?

Of power: Interesting an article about people in power. Indeed, power intoxicates and corrupts. But what happened when this single term metastasized or spreads into the person in position? The article asserts it causes brain damage where one suffers from empathy deficiency!

Now I understand the apparent apathy in the relationship between our men of wisdom and "we the people" they represent. Character and leadership stumbled in the new deficiency. The af-

Oh, how times have changed. It took smartphones and their compelling, glowing screens, to tip the balance into a situation without apparent limits at all.

From what I've seen, many people are absorbed in their screens no matter what, be they working, not working, eating, shopping, walking, or even driving. If screen-time is a lifestyle, then it's going to seep into a work context just because it will seep into any available space. This is probably a self-reinforcing loop. After all, if your mindset isn't oriented to electronic screens, you're probably not going to be welcome in a corporate office anyway.

The iPhone was unveiled in 2007. What seemed like science fiction became everyday life. It's no longer remarkable that you can be on vacation, or at the restaurant, or with your family, or all of the above, while absorbed in a work situation (or any other situation) via your screen.

So, yes, the entire world is in your hand. That world might be virtual, but the attention directed at it isn't virtual at all.

At this juncture we're up against more than the allocation of time. As slippery as time is, it's easy to measure. Labor vs. leisure situations typically use hours as the quantity scale. Makes sense.

But what if we're dealing with the allocation of attention? This is not well-suited to measurement. It's going to have a hard time getting any play in the field of labor economics.

And that's a big paradox with economics and with a lot of other things, too. The only reason to measure things is that they're important enough to measure (otherwise, why bother?) but the most important things in life can't be measured.

flicted could no longer feel and understand the sentiments of the people whose interest they represent. It's appalling how people's issues are easily neglected.

Incumbents Raffy and GOP cabal have ignored common concerns relating to stagnant wages and loss of job opportunities, skyrocketing healthcare costs, lack of training programs for local workers, among others.

These are heavy issues sufficient to leave the incumbent and his team dazed as it attempts to map-out strategies and fitting narratives to shield negligence. Hope the slugfest doesn't head down the path of toxic vitriol where meaningful debate is turned on its head.

In-house pharmacy: It looks like CHC would eventually run its own outpatient pharmacy in an effort to extend help to the poorest sector of the local population.

It's a noble intent but one that warrants careful financial analysis for there's no such a thing as a "free lunch." Someone, somewhere is paying for it! The use of funds from a certain federal program isn't free. It comes from U.S. taxpayers!

It should serve us right to look beyond our pug nose to figure out how much the program would cost annually. What if it is cut completely? Could we cough up sufficient funds to meet this purpose? These queries pop up while we have the social contract to help the poor, isn't it?

Now, we spend upwards of \$13 million per year on medical referral. Isn't it time to buckle down to gradually reverting these funds improving healthcare here? It takes leadership to focus on these issues to our benefit over the long haul.

Conundrum: Millions of dollars are spent annually promoting protection of our ecosystem. Yet, we see two long line boats stuck in Tanapag Harbor definitely falling apart destroying our fragile oceanic system.

Isn't the NMI a member of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and what has our esteemed former delegate done to ensure the organization removes the two boats?

You see, this neglect turns teaching about our environment oxymoronic! Aren't there 27 legislators on the hill? Or have you turned it into a conundrum?

Largesse: Legislative delegations split senatorial funds for various programs, including more public funds for disposition we the taxpayers know nothing about.

Recently, the Rota delegation divvied some \$8,000 among itself that pans out to about \$2,000 per legislator. Who knows how Tinian divides its share?

But these funds remain public funds and must specifically include its intended purpose under constitutional law. It can't be

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



As a result, the things that can be measured are the things that get studied, and these are the things that get talked about. That's sensible enough as long as we remain aware that, in some cases, the data aren't telling us the whole picture, or even most of it.

It brings to mind the old joke about the guy who is looking for his lost car keys under a street lamp. He didn't lose his keys there, but that's where the light is.

Back to this work-life thing: Is you is, or is you ain't, at the office? I guess that depends on if the "you" is the physical you or the attentive you. Which of the two is the real you?

That might be an esoteric question but I'll offer a very non-esoteric observation: I've noticed that people who can manage their attention, and not just their time, usually have their careers moving in harmony with everything else instead of in opposition.

Having pondered this work-life thing it's time to get rolling with the July 4 festivities. I hear the blender being cranked up. I'm being beckoned to the pool, so I'm going to pull up my socks and join the action.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



treated as freebies. OPA must make ocular review how these funds are spent.

Highest bidder: Since four years ago the pro-casino troops have made it easily into their comfortable seats on the hill. A lot of their expenses were paid for by their big sugar daddy. It happened again last year where the name of the game stays the "highest bidder."

Politicians, especially the lapdogs of the wealthiest sugar daddies here, have allowed the desecration of ancestral burial ground in favor of pennies, nickels and dimes, trashing cultural values in the process. It was done with cheap eyesight on glitz and glamour.

Did you know that the genesis of our people came from our ancestors? Isn't this an aspect wrapped in traditional respect that you failed to honor as descendants? Is this the end of our journey as the permanent hosts of these pearly isles stampeded by dollar signs over our dignity?

MYSTERY

From Page 15

chess, is simply a lifeless collection of parts, whereas we humans are self-aware, swimming in a sea of smells and sights and memories?

For our forebears in centuries past, the riddle of life seemed every bit as intractable as the riddle of consciousness does today. Now we know how living creatures work, though for millennia the deepest thinkers on Earth could only guess. And today every 10-year-old can say where babies come from. That's progress, but we shouldn't be too smug.

Every generation makes the mistake of thinking that the escalator runs only as high as their floor. Not so. We can be sure that in centuries to come, our descendants will look back at us and quote our earnest beliefs and shake their heads in astonishment.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

MONDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

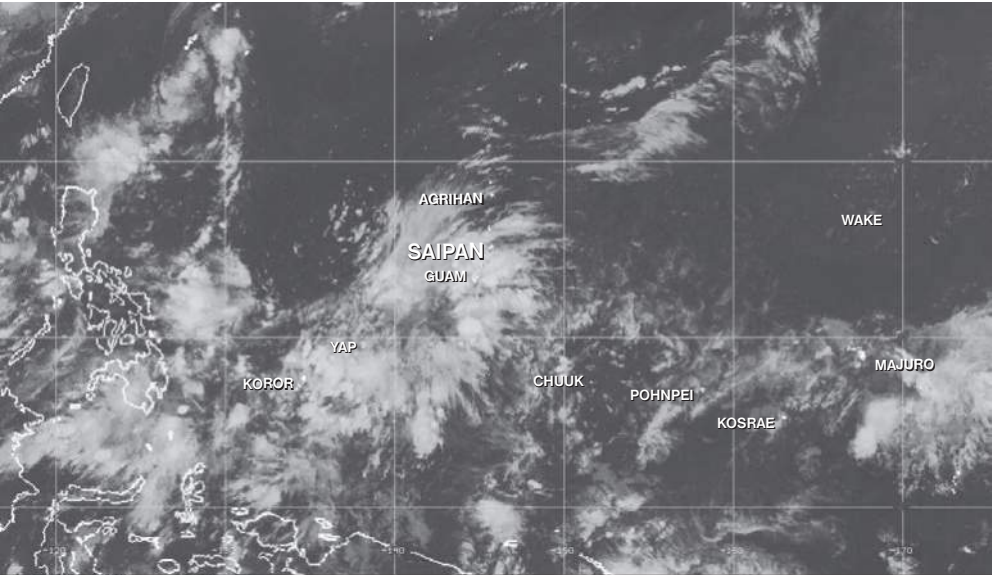
▲88° ▼77°

TUESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:25 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Did not make any major changes to the forecast. Scattered showers seem to be on track at least through tonight and possibly into Friday, especially for Guam and Rota. However, with rain working its way up from the south, am a bit concerned that pops could be too low. Will have to monitor this. Then, showers should become more isolated until another piece of energy moves through over the weekend. The models are not in very good agreement with this possibility with the GFS being stronger and, consequently wetter than the ECMWF. For now, have left the forecast unchanged. Seas will remain steady and then slowly decline into next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 52°			
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	97° / 73°			
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°			
Honolulu	Windy	85° / 73°			
London	Showers	70° / 55°			
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78° / 63°			
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°			
Melbourne	Sunny	54° / 39°			
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°			
New York	Partly Cloudy	92° / 73°			
Osaka	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°			
Paris	Showers	68° / 55°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy	81° / 73°			
Rome	Partly Cloudy	88° / 68°			
Salem	Thunderstorms	84° / 72°			
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 51°			
Seoul	Showers	81° / 70°			
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°			
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	94° / 75°			

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.96	
7:14 AM	LOW TIDE	0.85	
12:03 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.49	
6:48 PM	LOW TIDE	0.26	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:33 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:01 AM	12:24 PM
Sunday	-	12:41 AM	1:12 PM
Monday	-	1:20 AM	2:01 PM
Tuesday	-	2:00 AM	2:49 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM	PR1571	9:10pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



1977 ALUMKNIGHTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's 1977 AlumKnights recently celebrated their 40th reunion by honoring their former teachers and deceased class members. They invited their former principal, Bernie Helstrom (front, center) and former teacher Scott Russell (back row, far right) as guest speakers. In memory of classmate Raymond Snodgrass, who passed away while pursuing his medical studies, the 1977 AlumKnights also raised scholarship funds to support a recent graduate who will study medicine as well. This year they awarded the Raymond Snodgrass Memorial Scholarship to 2017 AlumKnight Hai Higuchi (back row, third from left). Also in the picture are 1977 AlumKnights, from left to right, Diego Benavente, Vicky Benavente, Margaret Tenorio Cabrera, Elaine Deleon Guerrero Benjamin, and Olinka Cabrera Chaudhry.



Commonwealth Development Authority

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Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com



INVITATION TO BID

CATERPILLAR GENERATOR SET



The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting bids for the sale of its 90 KVA Caterpillar Generator Set.

All sealed bids must be on authorized bid forms available at the CDA Office in Oleai, Saipan. Unsigned bids will be considered non-responsive and will not be accepted. All bids will be publicly announced.

Payment shall be U.S. Currency or Certified Bank Draft made payable on demand in U.S. Currency to the Commonwealth Development Authority. Receipt for the full amount of the bid amount must be paid before the property can be removed. Buyer is responsible for the removal of the generator.

Bidders are cautioned to inspect the property. Property is being sold on "As Is" and "Where Is". An inspection period is provided for prospective bidders to determine the true condition and bid accordingly. Bidders are asked to call CDA Administration Department at 234-6245 ext. 304 or 310 for the schedule. The property is located at Hao's Air Conditioning the former Car Quest in Chalan Kanoa.



CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bids or any of them if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CDA.

Customers First



MARKETING MANAGER

Triple J is looking for a marketing manager that will assist the marketing team with day to day marketing tasks and coordinating marketing projects and activities for Triple J group of companies in Saipan, as requested

DUTIES

- Planning, coordinating and executing print and digital advertising and marketing campaigns from concept to final product
- Coordinating, organizing and executing marketing events
- Writing clear, well-organized press releases before and after events, projects or big announcements as needed for maximum exposure
- Communicating and coordinating with all Triple J Saipan affiliates on their marketing projects to increase revenue and/or exposure in the market
- Creating and submitting marketing plans with a clear target audience, goal and budget
- Researching and analyzing target markets
- Maintaining social media accounts with strict adherence to brand identities and tone for all affiliates as necessary
- Analyzing and critiquing initial design projects to be submitted for corporate final approval
- Assisting with the production of artwork, sourcing images, etc.
- Produce clear and concise written correspondence in the form of letters and emails.
- Interface with internal and external customers along with marketing vendors.
- Act as internal liaison and develop report structure to assist in prioritizing departmental projects.
- Assist the VP of Marketing and Marketing Supervisor in managing events and sponsorships and ensure the execution while maximizing all possible opportunities.
- Assist and support the marketing team in managing, writing content and minor creative conceptual for company newsletter, social media, email campaigns, etc.
- Assist and support the marketing team in analyzing results of marketing campaigns and programs.
- Be aware of the marketing efforts and promotion of the competition.
- Other support and administrative activities as needed and as assigned by the VP of Marketing.

Salary will be commensurate with knowledge and experience
Please fill up application form on our website:

www.triplejsaipan.com/employment-application/



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FB Server		Entertainment Crew	Life Guard
Engineering		Front Office	
Electrician	Painter	Guest Service Officer	
A/C Technician			
Culinary		Rooms	
Japanese - Chef De Partie		Housekeeping Supervisor	

Disclaimer: Must be able to legally work in the CNMI (Saipan) without needing a work visa. Send resumes to hr@mrisaipan.com or pick up an application at our office from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Visit us at <http://www.kensingtonsaipan.com/en/>

SAIPAN
KENSINGTON
HOTEL

EOE/Drug Free Workplace

Educational Assistance Program SY 2017/2018

PROGRAMS	WHO CAN APPLY
EAP Base Grant	Full time students pursuing a college degree or certificate.
Priority Fields of Study (PFoS)	Full/part time students enrolled and majoring in our approved PFoS.
Incentive	Juniors/Seniors pursuing a degree in our PFoS with CGPA of 2.75 (or higher) and last term GPA of 3.5 (or higher), and enrolled in 15 credits or more.
Commonwealth College Access Grants (CCAG)	High School Jr./Sr. with CGPA of 2.75 or higher enrolled in Dual or Early Enrollment Program. (ongoing recipients must have a CGPA of 2.75, or higher, in the Dual/Early Enrollment Program)
Marianas Employees Financial Aid (MEFA)	Full time employees in the CNMI enrolled part time at NMC or accredited online program to pursue a degree or certificate
Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)	One time award for full time employees in the CNMI enrolled at Northern Marianas College for BE200 only.
Graduate School Student Loans (GSSL)	Applicants with a Bachelor/Master degree pursuing a higher degree in a graduate school program.
Vocational Trade Aid (VocAid)	Students from NMTI & Latte Training Academy or any certified Trade School in any US Territory.



CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE

Kilili: \$658,692 for Marianas energy projects

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) congratulated Northern Marianas College and the Commonwealth government for successfully competing for two energy grants from the Department of

the Interior worth \$658,692. Interior announced the awards this week. Funding comes from the Empowering Insular Areas initiative that Congress approved in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2017,

Public Law 115-31.

"The [Northern Marianas College] will be receiving \$489,807 to put solar panels on three of its buildings," Sablan said, "with an estimated annual cost saving of \$37,764."

The photovoltaic project for NMC is part of the CNMI strategic energy plan.

Also, the Commonwealth government will get \$168,885 to study the potential for recovering methane gas from the sanitary landfill in Marpi and from the former Puerto Rico dump site, now the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park. Methane can be used as an alternative to imported fossil fuels.

"The college and the CNMI were competing with American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, who also had good proposals and won funding," Sablan said. "All the insular areas have extremely high energy costs and need this extra help from Congress to encourage the shift to renewable—and less costly—energy sources."

President Trump has proposed a cut of \$660,000 to the Empowering Insular Communities program for fiscal year 2018, part of his overall reduction of \$9.7 million in technical assistance to the U.S. insular areas. (PR)



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2017 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM- TINIAN RIDGE TO REEF ECO CAMP

Article by Jihan Buniag, Coral Reef Initiative Project Coordinator

The 2017 Youth Environmental Stewardship Program-Tinian Ridge to Reef Eco Camp was held this past week from June 20-23. Students, and high school volunteer counselors participated in a series of half day activities to learn more about watersheds, and how our actions on land impact our oceans and reefs. Eco camp participants explored their watershed from ridge to reef through learning about agricultural best practices, hiking and exploring in a limestone forest, conducting a marine debris cleanup at Long Beach and learning about the detrimental impacts of marine debris, and finally spent a morning learning about our coral reefs, the Micronesia Challenge and snorkeling at Tachonga Beach.

This camp would not have been possible without the support of all of our partners. The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality - Division of Coastal Resources Management staff would like to thank and recognize our co-coordinator, Keith Nabors, of the Tinian Community Guidance Center, Prevention Unit. We would also like to recognize the staff from NMC CREES-Tinian who led "Agriculture" day - organizing presentations, a farm visit, and a healthy cooking class; DCRM's Coastal Planner, Emily Northrop, who gave a presentation on Marine Spatial Planning, Ms. Katie Graziano, BECQ's Watershed Coordinator gave a hands-on presentation on Watersheds and land based sources of pollution, Mr. Tony Castro from the Ecology of Bird Loss project, for facilitating a limestone forest hike and scavenger hunt; Jolly Ann Cruz of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) for facilitating a cleanup at Long Beach and related marine debris programming, and finally to the Coral Reef Initiative staff and Marine Monitoring Team for presenting on the importance of coral reef monitoring and snorkel safety.

We would also like to recognize our various other supporting and sponsoring agencies: The Tinian Health Center; DCRM's Tinian staff member, Mr. Edwin Hofschneider for providing on-site logistics help; Tinian Fire and EMS, who were on-site at Tachonga Beach for our snorkeling activity; and finally the Typhoon Sports Association for providing water for the duration of the camp.

Camp was yet again a great success and learning experience! Thank you to the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior for continuing to fund this opportunity.





CUSTOMER FAVORITE AWARD

United Kingdom-based Rentalcars.com recently presented its 2016 Customer Favorite Award to Atkins Kroll, (Saipan) Inc., which does business as Toyota Rent A Car at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport. Photo shows Toyota Rent A Car personnel posing for a group shot.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC Business is a candidate for specialized accreditation



Pictured for the candidacy certificate presentation is the NMC team led by president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, center. From left, Dr. Richard Waldo, associate professor of Business Accounting; Fernandez; and Barbara Hunter, assistant professor of Business Management.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs recently accepted the Northern Marianas College's candidacy for specialized accreditation of its business programs.

"Obtaining ACBSP accreditation involves a very rigorous process that attests to the business programs' high quality and performance," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "This prestigious designation will bring honor not only to our business students but to our college as well."

Northern Marianas College is already accredited institution-wide by the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges.

The ASBSP accreditation, once granted, will provide an extra layer of quality assurance, acknowledgement, and prestige for the college's business programs.

"We are moving quickly to

complete the self study and prepare for a site visit and other activities that are needed to complete the accreditation process," added Fernandez.

ACBSP is a leading specialized accreditation body for business education. Its mission is to promote continuous improvement and recognize teaching excellence in the accreditation of business education programs throughout the world.

The organization accredits its business, accounting, and business-related programs at the associate, baccalaureate, master, and doctorate degree levels.

According to the ACBSP, it was recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation in 2001 and again in 2011, and was the first to offer specialized business accreditation at all degree levels. ACBSP currently accredits business programs at more than 1,200 campuses in 60 countries. (NMC)

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NOTICE OF INACTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS

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ANTHONY S AGUON JR 1306 PETREE ST UNIT # 388 EL CAJON CA 92020	EDDIE M BAUTISTA PMB 425 BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	DESIREE N BULAON PO BOX 501992 SAIPAN MP 96950	STIAN CHEN PMB 18 PO BOX 10001 SAIPAN MP 96950	ANJENETTE JEWEL H CUBANGBANG PO BOX 501562 SAIPAN MP 96950	AMADITO A CERVANTES ROWENA V CERVANTES PO BOX 504990 SAIPAN MP 96950	LEONILA P GARCIA PO BOX 501328 SAIPAN MP 96950	DOMINADOR P CADIENTE PMB 516 BOX 10005 SAIPAN MP 96950	JOSE RODEL C LUNZAGA PO BOX 10005 PMB 284 SAIPAN MP 96950	CARLSMITH BALL LLP A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP CLIENT TRUST ACCOUNT PO BOX 656 HONOLULU HI 96809	KEISHA NEPAIAL PO BOX 10003 PMB 322 SAIPAN MP 96950	MARILYNN WABOL NEKAIFES PO BOX 503001 SAIPAN MP 96950	DANIEL R PANGANIBAN PO BOX 5087 CHRB SAIPAN MP 96950	LUIS G ROCHA PO BOX 502094 SAIPAN MP 96950	LUIS G ROCHA PO BOX 502094 SAIPAN MP 96950
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NOTICE OF INACTIVE BANK ACCOUNTS (Continued)

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APOLINARIO G SAMSON PMB 257 PO BOX 10003 SAIPAN MP 96950	MAYUMI SUZUKI MITSUNOBU SUZUKI PO BOX 501778 SAIPAN MP 96950	FE A TSUJI PO BOX 502308 SAIPAN MP 96950	WHIMSICAL WONDERS A JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT C PO BOX 500268 SAIPAN MP 96950
ODESAMERY SANSY PO BOX 10000 PMB 703 SAIPAN MP 96950	QIUNA R TAITANO PO BOX 501716 SAIPAN MP 96950	JERRY U TUBALE PO BOX 503506 SAIPAN MP 96950	SHIRLEY A WILSON PO BOX 504244 SAIPAN MP 96950
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LORNA V SANTOS PO BOX 506487 SAIPAN MP 96950	VISON JOSEPH TAKHASHY PMB 731 BOX 10003 SAIPAN MP 96950	U.S.A FANTER CORPORATION, LTD DBA G.C. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR PMB 1372 PO BOX 10003 SAIPAN MP 96950	SOLEDAD MARIE C XIN PO BOX 502976 SAIPAN MP 96950
JOHNEMIL A SARIO PO BOX 505791 SAIPAN MP 96950	MELECIO G TAMAYO PO BOX 506649 CK SAIPAN MP 96950	UNITED HOLDINGS GROUP U.S.A. LTD PMB 729 PO BOX 10001 SAIPAN MP 96950	XI XU PO BOX 504540 SAIPAN MP 96950
EVANGELINE F SAYGO PO BOX 503082 SAIPAN MP 96950	TOMAS M TAMIN III PO BOX 8223 SVRB SAIPAN MP 96950	UPUL LAKSIRI THANIPPULI ARACHCHIGE DBA V.T. TAXI SERVICES PO BOX 505228 SAIPAN MP 96950	YALE CORPORATION PMB 586 BOX 10003 SAIPAN MP 96950
COOPER C SCHRAUDENBACH JILL L VANDERKIN PMB 23 PO BOX 10001 SAIPAN MP 96950	TAN FAMILY TRUST DATED 12/6/97 SIU LIN TAN TRUSTEE PO BOX 501280 SAIPAN MP 96950	ANNALIZA O UY PMB 1024 PO BOX 10002 SAIPAN MP 96950	HUA YANG PO BOX 503754 SAIPAN MP 96950
ADDRESS B SELLEM PO BOX 5834 CHRB SAIPAN MP 96950	KEMIN TANG PMB 133 BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	LIDIA M VALLEDO 841 BURTON LN SOUTHAVEN MS 38671	SADRINAA A YAO PMB 1028 PPP BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950
HONGBING SHEN PMB 687G BOX 10012 SAIPAN MP 96950	YONGXIN TANG PMB 133 BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	JOSEPH B VICENTE EMILIE P VICENTE PO BOX 503856 SAIPAN MP 96950	SAMYEOL YOO PO BOX 500950 SAIPAN MP 96950
TZU MING SHEU PO BOX 502997 SAIPAN MP 96950	RUSSELL H TANSEY PO BOX 2930 SAIPAN MP 96950	BUENAVENTURA D VIDAL PO BOX 505473 SAIPAN MP 96950	MIN-JONG YUN PMB 100 BOX 10001 SAIPAN MP 96950
CHENGRI SHI PO BOX 500541 CK SAIPAN MP 96950	ANNA THERESA O TAYAG PO BOX 504269 SAIPAN MP 96950	ELLEN A VIDANES ITF BRENT BRIAN V AZARCON PO BOX 502175 SAIPAN MP 96950	MARIA PERPETUA C ZAYCO PO BOX 506054 SAIPAN MP 96950
ARNEL L SISON PO BOX 5778 CHRB SAIPAN MP 96950	PRISCILLA T TENORIO PO BOX 501938 SAIPAN MP 96950	HIJASMIN F VILLAGOMEZ PO BOX 7318 SVRB SAIPAN MP 96950	DAOHANG ZHANG PO BOX 10003 PMB 689 SAIPAN MP 96950
YANLI W SLUSSER PO BOX 10001 PMB 389 SAIPAN MP 96950	THOMAS J DAVIS CNMI INC PMB 1 BOX 10001 SAIPAN MP 96950	ROBERTO A VILLAMIN QUEENE GAY O CABANATAN PO BOX 502537 SAIPAN MP 96950	DAOHANG ZHANG PO BOX 10003 PMB 689 SAIPAN MP 96950
MELCHOR M SOBRADO PMB 189 PPP BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	YURIE THOMPSON 370 W 116TH ST APT 2B NEW YORK NY 10026	SOC NILO A VILLANUEVA PO BOX 503942 SAIPAN MP 96950	LEI ZHAO PMB 133 BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950
HANG EUI SONG PMB 303 BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	TINIAN REALTY INTERNATIONAL CO 2/F SBI CENTRE NOS 54-58 DES VOEUX RAOD CENTRAL HONG KONG	JESSE JOSEPH C VILLAZON PO BOX 7097 SVRB SAIPAN MP 96950	ZHIZHONG ZHENG PO BOX 505799 SAIPAN MP 96950
LUJIA SONG PMB 1043 PO BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	YINGXIA LU TOPASNA PO BOX 12854 TAMUNING GU 96931	ROEL F WABOL PO BOX 503237 SAIPAN MP 96950	LIHONG ZHU ANTONIO I SABLAN PMB 386 979 ARMY DR BARRIGADA GU 96913
MANUEL D SORIANO PO BOX 503907 SAIPAN MP 96950	MARINO M TORWAL ELENA R TORWAL 2303 PINE ST 3 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94115	HIDEMI WADA HIDETO WADA PMB 700 BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	
ROSIEEN L SPIS PO BOX 7123 SVRB SAIPAN MP 96950	TRANSPACIFIC INTERNATIONAL INC PO BOX 502080 SAIPAN MP 96950	WAH LI INC DBA BK TOUR PMB 159 PO BOX 10001 SAIPAN MP 96950	
SPLENDID INVESTMENT LTD PO BOX 10003 PMB 78 SAIPAN MP 96950	TREAS INC DBA COLORS DBA PURE COLORS/DBA X-COLORS DBA ASIAN ACCENTS/ASIAN WAVE PMB 704 PO BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	LEI WAN PMB 737 PO BOX 10000 SAIPAN MP 96950	
JUNAR C SULABO PO BOX 5525 CHRB SAIPAN MP 96950			
LOR-NAH L SUMAGANG PO BOX 500242 SAIPAN MP 96950			
NI MADE SUWENI PO BOX 501029 SAIPAN MP 96950			

Opening Day
of Liberation
Day Festival



Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios gives his opening remarks at the grand opening of the 2017 Liberation Day festival last Tuesday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang gives his speech during the grand opening of the 2017 Liberation Day festival last Tuesday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Liberation Day Committee chair Matt Deleon Guerrero gives his speech at the grand opening of the 2017 Liberation Day festival last Tuesday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Despite the threatening weather condition, members of the public come out to support the 2017 Liberation Day festival's grand opening at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



The Liberation Day royal court candidates are presented to the public during the grand opening ceremony of the 2017 Liberation Day festival last Tuesday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Semiya Mananaita performs cultural dances during the Liberation Day festival's grand opening last Tuesday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



People visit the many different booths during the Liberation Day festival's grand opening last Tuesday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Many came out to bond with their families, enjoy the live entertainment, and taste the array of dishes offered by family booths during the Liberation Day festival at the Garapan Fishing Base.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

2017-2018 Application For Free School Meals is now available at all public schools and at the Public School System CNP Office

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Public School System Child Nutrition Program today announced its policy for children *unable* to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Regardless of financial standing and participation in programs such as WIC or NAP, **a new free school meal application must be completed and submitted each school year to receive free school meal benefits.**

Meal prices for the 2017-2018 school year will remain the same as the previous year. Students who do not qualify for free school meals may buy a subsidized school breakfast for \$0.50. Additional breakfasts can be purchased for \$2.40 at elementary schools and \$2.80 at secondary schools. Students who do not qualify for free school meals may purchase a subsidized school lunch for \$0.75. Additional lunches can be purchased for \$3.80 at elementary schools and \$4.30 at secondary schools.

Application forms are now available at the PSS Child Nutrition Program Office and are being sent to all public schools with a notice to parents or guardians. Applications are available at Tinian Elementary School and Rota Junior High School as well. To apply for free meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school or to the PSS Child Nutrition Program office. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The application can be downloaded from the PSS website at <http://www.cnmipss.org/fns/>.

To obtain free meals for children for whose households receive Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, an adult member needs only to list the names of the school children, give a valid food stamp case number for each child, sign his/her name, list his/her social security number, and return the application to the school office.

For school officials to determine eligibility for free meals of households not receiving Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, the household must also provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. In lieu of a social security number, the household may indicate that the signer does not possess a social security number. Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, SSI, child support, etc.). For verification purposes, copies of the two most recent check stubs for each working adult staying in the household must be included with the application. Failure to include these items will delay the processing of the application.

Under the provisions of the free meal policy, the PSS Child Nutrition Program Manager will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Mr. Dale Roberts, PSS Child Nutrition Program Manager located in government house 1251 located on Capital Hill, Saipan.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the CNP Office. Such changes may make the household eligible for free meals if the household income falls at or below the IEG levels listed in the chart, and they may reapply at that time.

In most cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a household has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free school meals, the household should complete an application for a family of one or contact the CNP office for more information.

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. PSS is authorized to release student free and school meal eligibility status only to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official.

Children determined eligible for free meals last school year will receive free meals for up to 30 days after the opening of school on August 16, 2017.

To avoid delays in free school meal services due to processing, all applications should be completed and submitted to PSS CNP before September 1, 2017.

2017-2018

2017-2018

2017-2018

Application for Free School Meals--- CNMI Public School System--- Food and Nutrition Services

LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

Part 1: List each Student's name and information. List names how they are registered at their schools. Write the Food Stamp Card Number if applicable

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth Month / Day / Year	Grade (K-12)	School Name	Food Stamp # (if applicable)	SSI or Income (If Applicable)
1.			/ /				\$
2.			/ /				\$
3.			/ /				\$
4.			/ /				\$
5.			/ /				\$

Part 2: List all other members of the household. Do not include students listed above in part 1. Report all current income received last month.

Attach copies of last month's check stubs for income verification.

Names of All Household Members (do not include students listed in Part 1)		Check here if person has NO INCOME <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Household Gross Income For each household member, list each kind of income and how often it is received: weekly, bi-weekly (every two weeks), monthly. If the person receives no income, place a check in the box next to the person's name.			
Last Name	First Name		Wages and salaries from all jobs Before deductions	Pension, SSI, Retirement, Social Security	Any other income	
1.			\$ per	\$ per	\$	\$
2.			\$ per	\$ per	\$	\$
3.			\$ per	\$ per	\$	\$
4.			\$ per	\$ per	\$	\$
5.			\$ per	\$ per	\$	\$

Part 3: Signature and Social Security Number: An adult listed in Part 2 must sign the application and provide a social security number before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all of the above information is true and correct and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is being given for the receipt of Federal funds; that PSS officials may verify (check) the information on the application; and that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may subject me to prosecution under applicable Commonwealth or Federal laws and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian	Sign Here	Date Signed	Date
Print your name	First Last	Mailing Address: PO Box City / State / Zip	Mailing Address
Last four digits of Social Security Number X X X - X X X -	Check this box if you do not have a SSN <input type="checkbox"/>	Daytime Telephone:	Working Telephone
EMAIL ADDRESS			

For PSS Food and Nutrition official use, please do not write below this line

Categorical Eligibility: NAP	Income	Temporary until / /	DYS	Other
Total Monthly Income:	Household Size			
Monthly Income Conversion: Weekly x 4.33	Bi-weekly x 2.15	Twice a month x 2		Verified by:
Signature of Determining Official: FNS Administrator, date:				

List the names and info of each child attending school or day care.

List the names of all other members of the household and all income.

One of the legal guardians listed in part 2 must sign and date the form.

2017-2018 Federal Income Guidelines (IEG) for Free Meal Eligibility. If your household income falls within these guidelines your children MAY be eligible to receive free school meals.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	2x per Month	Bi-weekly	Weekly
1	\$ 15,678	\$ 1,307	\$ 654	\$ 603	\$ 302
2	21,112	1,760	880	812	406
3	26,546	2,213	1,107	1,021	511
4	31,980	2,665	1,333	1,230	615
5	37,414	3,118	1,559	1,439	720
6	42,848	3,571	1,786	1,648	824
7	48,282	4,024	2,012	1,857	929
8	53,716	4,477	2,239	2,066	1,033
Add'l member, Add.....	+ 5,434	+ 453	+ 227	+ 209	+ 105

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official. The PSS CNP office can be reached on Saipan: 664-3901 / 3902 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105, Rota: 237-4046/4041/4042

Great Harvest Bread Co. branch to open in August

Triple J Saipan is slated to open Saipan's first Great Harvest Bread Co. branch in August 2017, in Chalan Kanoa on Beach Road, in front of Surf Club.

Great Harvest will be the third new restaurant opened by Triple J since 2016. The others are Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. and Surf Club.

Great Harvest Bread Co. is a unique bakery in that all its bread products are made with freshly milled whole grains on premise. The wheat is freshly milled in-house for superior flavor and nutrition. Their "slow baking" technique without shortcuts or preservatives is why their product is sought after throughout the U.S.

Donovan Castro, head baker, recently returned from

a training program in Dillion, Montana, where he learned the entire baking process.

"I learned so much with the amazing team at Great Harvest Bread Montana. It really inspired me to come back to Saipan and really make the best bread in the CNMI," Donovan said.

His favorite part? "Biting into a Great Harvest bread for the first time. Really, I made it that day and got to eat what I made right after it came out of the oven. It was a truly exciting experience."

The menu items include sandwiches, soups, bread bowls, salads, baked fresh daily loaves, cookies and other sweet goodies.

Great Harvest Bread Saipan



The menu at Saipan's first Great Harvest Bread Co. branch will include sandwiches, soups, bread bowls, salads, baked fresh daily loaves, cookies, and other sweet goodies.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

will have a special baking press, which can churn out 1,200 freshly made flour and corn tortillas daily.

The bakery will be open all day to serve delicious breakfast and lunch products as well as dinner.



Sandwich and chips will also be on the menu of the day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

wheat on site to produce the freshest products possible. This is going to be a great addition to Chalan Kanoa and Saipan."

Great Harvest Bread Co. began in the '70s, with founders Pete and Laura Wakeman baking fresh bread products to pay their college tuition at Cornell University.

The couple went to Montana after college and never left, opening the first Great Harvest Bakery in Great Falls, Montana, in 1976.

Saipan will be the farthest Great Harvest Bread location to date. For more information visit www.facebook.com/greatharvestbreadsaipan/. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKING AND SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0003-26/XX.**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, requires the removal and replacement of all airfield markings and other miscellaneous work in accordance with the plans and specifications and in compliance with FAA's Advisory Circular No. 150/5340-1L.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within **ninety (90)** calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for **one hundred twenty (120)** calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with **Item 6-100-3.2 (Contract Time)** of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specifications. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with **Item 6-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages)** of the General Project Requirements. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the CONFERENCE ROOM, **Rota Ports Manager's Office at 10:00 AM, Monday, July 3, 2017** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 9, 2017



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **AIRFIELD MARKING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NUMBER 3-69-0011-27/XX.**

One original and three copies of the Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017**, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of installation of airfield pavement markings, including but not limited to numbers, markings, and stripes on the surface of runways, taxiways, and aprons, in accordance with these specifications and at the locations shown on the plans, or as directed by the Engineer.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **180 CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)** per day shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport at **10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2017** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the **DEPARTMENT OF THE FEDERAL LABOR WAGE RATE DETERMINATION** is included in SECTION GP 70-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 7, 2017

Business

GOP touts lower premiums, but other insurance costs to rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans are touting lower premiums under their health care legislation, but that reflects insurance that would cover a smaller share of the cost of medical bills.

The fine print is getting lost in the translation.

Consumers might pay less up front every month, but if you break a bone or get hospitalized for a serious illness,

you could be on the hook for a bigger share of the bill.

Premiums under the Senate bill would average about 30 percent lower in a few years, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in its analysis this week. Overlooked is that the lower premiums envision a switch to “bronze” plans that now come with a \$6,000 individual deductible, much higher than the current

standard “silver” plan with a \$3,600 deductible.

Another caveat: Not everybody would see lower premiums.

Insurers will be able to charge older adults up to five times more, compared with a three-fold difference under current law, the health care overhaul passed under former President Barack Obama.

Also, the GOP would give

lower-income people less financial help from the government, which means many might not be able to afford coverage. Lower-income

people get less assistance with premiums in the Senate bill and the GOP would also phase out extra help that many receive with deductibles and copayments.

“I think there’s some fine print,” said Cori Uccello of the American Academy of Actuaries, a group representing professionals who make long-range economic estimates on health and pension programs. “Premiums are going down for a couple of reasons: the

plans are getting less generous ... and the age distribution of people purchasing coverage would be younger.”

The 2010 Affordable Care Act was intended to solve problems of access and affordability for millions of Americans who don’t have job-based insurance. Instead, it’s been a roller-coaster ride, and not only because of entrenched political opposition from Republicans.

Double-digit premium increases have hit many states. While consumers who get federal subsidies are insulated, several million are taking a direct hit: Those who buy

individual policies outside the program, or make too much to get financial help. It’s this group that some GOP lawmakers had in mind when they launched their self-proclaimed health care “rescue mission.”

“It will bring affordability to people across this country who are suffering under the curse of high premiums, and high deductibles and high out-of-pocket costs,” Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said of the Senate GOP bill.

But Uccello and other experts caution that cost problems might just continue, only in a different form.

Office supplies chain Staples sold for \$6.9B

NEW YORK (AP)—Private equity firm Sycamore Partners is buying office supplies chain Staples for \$6.9 billion.

The companies said Wednesday that shareholders of Framingham, Massachusetts-based Staples will get \$10.25 per share.

Staples’ stock closed Wednesday up 77 cents, or 8.4 percent, to \$9.93, fueled by a late-afternoon report of a deal. The stock rose another 1.5 percent in extended trading after the deal was announced.

Changing shopping patterns, like the shift to online buying, have hurt office-supplies megastores like Staples.

Amazon has become a prime competitor to Staples for corporate customers.

The deal with New York-based Sycamore Partners will allow Staples to adjust to the challenges as a private company.

Staples’ sales have declined 6.1 percent over the past five years to \$18.2 billion.

Staples Inc. is the largest “big box” office-supply chain, but it cut the number of stores it runs to roughly 1,600 from nearly 2,300 in 2012, according to FactSet.

Last year, Staples shredded a proposed \$6.3 billion merger with rival Office Depot after

encountering stern resistance from antitrust regulators that culminated in a federal judge blocking the deal.

Staples confirmed in April that it was exploring a possible sale. Sycamore Partners’ Managing Director Stefan Kaluzny said the deal will help Staples pursue its long-term strategy.

“With an iconic brand, a winning strategy, and dedicated and passionate associates who are deeply focused on the customer, Staples is truly an outstanding enterprise,” Kaluzny said.

The companies said they expect this deal to close by the end of the year.



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES REPLACEMENT**, SAIPAN, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-87/XX.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “*Passenger Loading Bridges Replacement for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-87*” and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., Friday, JULY 21, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to removal and replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 2, 3, and 6 at the Saipan International Airport with new apron-drive bridges including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY (580) calendar days if awarded all three bridges**. Duration may adjust based on funding availability which will determine number of bridges to be replaced.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A CD-ROM containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier’s check or U.S. postal money order payable to the “Commonwealth Ports Authority”.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the CD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran’s Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: June 9, 2017



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CHCC-PSA-17-001

This is to inform the general public that the **CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2018 State Plan** is now available for review and public comments from **June 26-30, 2017**. Interested members of the general public may review the **CNMI WIC 2018 State Plan** at the **WIC Program’s Administrative Office** located in Upper Navy Hill, Mayoria Ave. Building N25. Our **Office hours** are from **7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday)**. All public comments must be submitted in writing to the **WIC Program Administrator** at the same office no later than close of business on **June 30, 2017**.

/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Office

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
CNMI WIC Program Administrator

Nation

US sets new visa rules for 6 mainly Muslim nations, refugees

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration on Wednesday set new criteria for visa applicants from six mainly Muslim nations and all refugees that require a “close” family or business tie to the United States. The move came after the Supreme Court partially restored President Donald Trump’s executive order that was widely criticized as a ban on Muslims.

Visas that have already been

approved will not be revoked, but instructions issued by the State Department say that new applicants from Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen must prove a relationship with a parent, spouse, child, adult son or daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the United States to be eligible. The same requirement, with some exceptions, holds for would-be refugees from all nations who are still awaiting approval for admission to the U.S. Grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, fiancées or other extended family members are not considered to be close relationships, according to the guidelines that were issued in a cable sent to

SCOTUS partially allows travel ban

The Supreme Court has ruled to allow the Trump administration's 90-day travel ban in part, stopping foreign nationals from six countries in the Middle East and Africa from entering the U.S. unless they have a close relationship with a person or entity in the country.



Source: White House, Supreme Court
Graphic: Tribune News Service

all U.S. embassies and consulates late on Wednesday. The new rules take effect at 8 p.m. EDT on Thursday (0000GMT on Friday), according to the cable, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

As far as business or professional links are concerned, the State Department said a legitimate relationship must be “formal, documented and formed in the ordinary course rather than for the purpose of evading” the ban. Journalists, students, workers or lecturers who have valid invitations or employment contracts in the U.S. would be exempt from the ban. The exemption does not apply to those who seek a relationship with an American business or educational institution purely for the purpose of avoiding the rules,

the cable said. A hotel reservation or car rental contract, even if it was pre-paid, would also not count, it said.

Consular officers may grant other exemptions to applicants from the six nations if they have “previously established significant contacts with the United States;” “significant business or professional obligations” in the U.S.; if they are an infant, adopted child or in need of urgent medical care; if they are traveling for business with a recognized international organization or the U.S. government or if they are a legal resident of Canada who applies for a visa in Canada, according to the cable.

Critics said they are watching closely to see how the guidelines are used.

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 14-0137
vs.)
MERCEDES T. TEIGITA) NOTICE OF
and THE ESTATE OF) AUCTION
JOSE L. TAITANO,) ON THE
Defendant) MORTGAGED
PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 01st day of February, 2017, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 11th day of August, 2017 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 022 B 30.
Lot No. 022 B 30, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 022 B 01 the original of which was recorder 10 FEB 83 as Document No. 16506 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.
2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK Saipan, MP 96950 or Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 20th day of June, 2017.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

WASHINGTON (AP)—The majority of hate crimes experienced by U.S. residents over a 12-year period were not reported to police, according to a new federal report released Thursday that stoked advocates’ concerns about ongoing tensions between law enforcement and black and Latino communities.

More than half of the 250,000 hate crimes that took place each year between 2004 and 2015 went unreported to law enforcement for a variety of reasons, according to a special report on hate crimes from the Bureau of Justice

Statistics. Hate crimes were most often not reported because they were handled some other way, the report said. But people also did not come forward because they didn’t feel it was important or that police would help.

The report, based on a survey of households, is one of several studies that aim to quantify hate crimes. Its release comes as the Justice Department convenes a meeting on Thursday with local law enforcement officials and experts to discuss hate crimes, including a lack of solid data on the problem nationwide.

Attorney General Jeff Session is scheduled to speak.

The new survey shows the limits of hate crime reporting, said Brian Levin, the director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, California State University.

“Many victims don’t report hate crimes because of personal and institutional reasons,” Levin said. For example, some Latino immigrants may be reluctant to call police after an apparent hate crime for fear of deportation, he said.

Advocates fear that problem is worsening as the Trump administration ramps up immigration enforcement.

The report says Hispanics were victimized at the highest rate, followed by blacks.

“I think this report shows the kind of fear that is going on in our communities,” said Patricia Montes, executive director of the Boston-based immigrant advocacy group Centro Presente. She worries Latinos will even be more reluctant to report hate crimes in the future.

The new report said there was no significant increase in the number of hate crimes between 2004 and 2015. It cites racial bias as the top motivation, representing more than 48 percent of the cases be-

tween 2011 and 2015. Hate crimes motivated by ethnicity accounted for about 35 percent of those cases, and sexual orientation represented about 22 percent. Almost all of those surveyed said they felt they were experiencing a hate crime because of something the perpetrator said.

Law enforcement officials have long grappled with how to catalog hate crimes. While some victims’ distrust of police keeps them from coming forward, Levin said, some LGBT victims may opt not to report a hate crime for fear of losing a job or being outed to family.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP-17- CHCC/WIC-19

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 14, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM
RFP OPENING DATE: July 14, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM

TWO (2) MULTI-FUNCTION COPIER EQUIPMENTS
WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC),
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ PRISCILLA M. JAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-18

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: July 14, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM
RFP OPENING DATE: July 14, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM

“JANITORIAL CLEANING SERVICES
WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC),
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ PRISCILLA M. JAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Petitioner,) FCD-DI-CIVIL
Johnny S. Aldan) ACTION NO.
) 17-0269
vs.)
Patricia T. Obispo) SUMMONS FOR
) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is As Matus, P.O. Box 501893, CK as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 8th day of June, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN)
MARIANAS HOUSING)
CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,)
-vs-) CIVIL ACTION NO.
The Estate of) 12-0229
ENRIQUE ILO WABOL;)
and LYDIA LUCAS WABOL,)
aka LYDIA ILISARI LUCAS)
Defendants.)

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 6, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 241, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 002 G 07 date May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 14, 2017, at the hour of 1:30p.m., at the Law offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 9th day of June 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN)
MARIANAS HOUSING)
CORPORATION,)
Plaintiff,)
-vs-) CIVIL ACTION NO.
Edmond K. Rabauliman) 15-0138
and the Estate of)
Augusta S. Rabauliman,)
Defendants,)

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 6, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 011 G 75, containing an area of 770 square meters, more or less, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 03, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 93-4411, dated December 16, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 14, 2017, at the hour of 1:30p.m., at the Law offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 9th day of June 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Asia

PH leader tells troops not to fear civilian deaths

MANILA, Philippines—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte assured troops on Wednesday that he would protect them from any legal action if they accidentally kill civilians while battling militants who have besieged a southern city.

Duterte ordered the army to destroy the militants aligned with the Islamic State group who attacked Marawi on May 23, sparking fighting that has left more than 400 combatants and civilians dead. On Wednesday, retrieval teams recovered 17 more bodies believed to be those of villagers killed by the militants in an area of Marawi that has returned to government control.

Duterte said in a televised speech that troops don’t intend to kill civilians, but they should “not hesitate to engage just because there are civilians. It is the duty of the civilians to flee or seek cover.”

He assured the troops that he would fight to keep them out of prison for accidental deaths.

“We will face charges, sometimes massacre, you know a bullet hits through

and through, one squeeze of the Armalite (rifle), it bursts out about three, four. Keep on pressing it,” Duterte said.

Duterte declared martial law in the southern Philippines to deal with the Marawi crisis, in which hundreds of militants stormed into the predominantly Muslim city, occupied buildings, took a Roman Catholic priest and others hostage and hoisted Islamic State group-style black flags.

He warned Wednesday that if militants gather elsewhere, he would consider taking more emergency steps, including empowering law enforcers to make warrantless arrests.

“And my orders to you, if he carries a gun, he is not a soldier, he is not a policeman, just kill him. That is my order, because they will kill us,” Duterte told the troops.

Such remarks have alarmed human rights groups, which have already expressed concern over the killings of thousands of suspected drug dealers and users under a crackdown on illegal drugs that Duterte launched after taking office last June.

U.S.-based Human Rights Watch described Duterte’s first year in power as a “human rights calamity.”

“President Duterte took office promising to protect human rights, but has instead spent his first year in office as a boisterous instigator for an unlawful killing campaign,” Phelim Kine, the group’s deputy Asia director, said in a statement.

Duterte has denied condoning extrajudicial killings but has openly threatened drug and terrorism suspects with death.

The unprecedented militant siege in Marawi has sparked fears that the Islamic State group is tapping into Muslim unrest in the southern Philippines to carve out a foothold in Southeast Asia. The U.S. military deployed a P3 Orion surveillance aircraft to Marawi at the request of the Philippine military. Australia also plans to deploy two military surveillance planes.

China has donated 15 million pesos (\$300,000) in relief assistance to help Marawi recover. It also handed over as-

sault and sniper rifles and ammunition to Duterte at Clark freeport north of Manila on Wednesday to help the Philippines combat terrorism and piracy in its volatile south.

If the 17 bodies discovered Wednesday in Marawi turn out to be those of villagers killed in the conflict, it would bring

the number of civilian deaths to 44 and the overall death toll to more than 400. More than 400,000 residents of Marawi and outlying towns have been displaced by the fighting.

At least 299 militants and 71 soldiers and police have been killed in the violence.

Duterte apologized to troops

for the military casualties and said he was sad each night as he reads a report about Marawi and learns “how many soldiers I have lost for the day.”

“I really wallow in sorrow, because I’m the one who ordered you to go there and fight, that is the moral burden that I carry all day and all night,” he said.


ASIAN BRIEFS

Australian police charge Vatican cardinal with sex offenses
SYDNEY (AP)—Australian police charged a top Vatican cardinal on Thursday with multiple counts of “historical” sexual assault offenses, a stunning decision certain to rock the highest levels of the Holy See. Cardinal George Pell, Pope Francis’ chief financial adviser and Australia’s most senior Catholic, is the highest-ranking Vatican official to ever be charged in the church’s long-running sexual abuse scandal. Pell said he would return to Australia to fight the charges. Victoria state Police Deputy


Commissioner Shane Patton said police have summonsed Pell to appear in an Australian court to face multiple charges of “historical sexual assault offenses,” meaning offenses that generally occurred some time ago. Patton said there are multiple complainants against Pell, but gave no other details on the allegations against the cardinal. Pell was ordered to appear in Melbourne Magistrates Court on July 18.

4 more die in Pakistani tanker fire, pushing toll to 173
MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani doctor says

four more victims of last week’s oil tanker fire have died, raising the death toll to 173. Abdul Basit says the four men were among dozens of injured who were brought to a main government hospital in the city of Multan after an oil tanker overturned and burst into flames. Basit said Thursday doctors are still treating 37 others. The June 25 highway explosion took place outside the city of Bahawalpur when the driver of the tanker lost control and crashed. The tanker burst into flames when villagers were collecting the leaking fuel, ignoring warning from police.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-023, Rev.2

OEM—Assessment & Preventative Maintenance Services for the Diesel Engine Systems at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for OEM-Assessment & Preventive Maintenance Services (PMS) for the Diesel engine systems at CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEMs) or their authorized licensees from which CUC intends to select the most responsive proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC’s requirements. The term for the initial contract is for a period of ONE (1) year which may be extended or renewed upon mutual agreement.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the CUC Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-17-023, Rev. 2, OEM-Assessment & PMS for the Diesel engine systems at CUC Saipan Power Plant 1, Saipan” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than July 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be administered by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.


All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 19, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org, Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-026

Professional Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Utility Software For Billing, Financials, Work Order Computer System

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from utility billing, financials and work order software developer firms, for the Purchase of Enterprise Resource Planning Solution (ERP) software and sustainment for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails assessment, training, project management, migration, application and implementation. Deliverables may include a quotation for equipment to support the project, collaborative and performance reporting.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 27, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-17-026 Professional Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Utility Software For Billing, Financials, Work Order Computer System” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than July 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Antonio B. Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

World

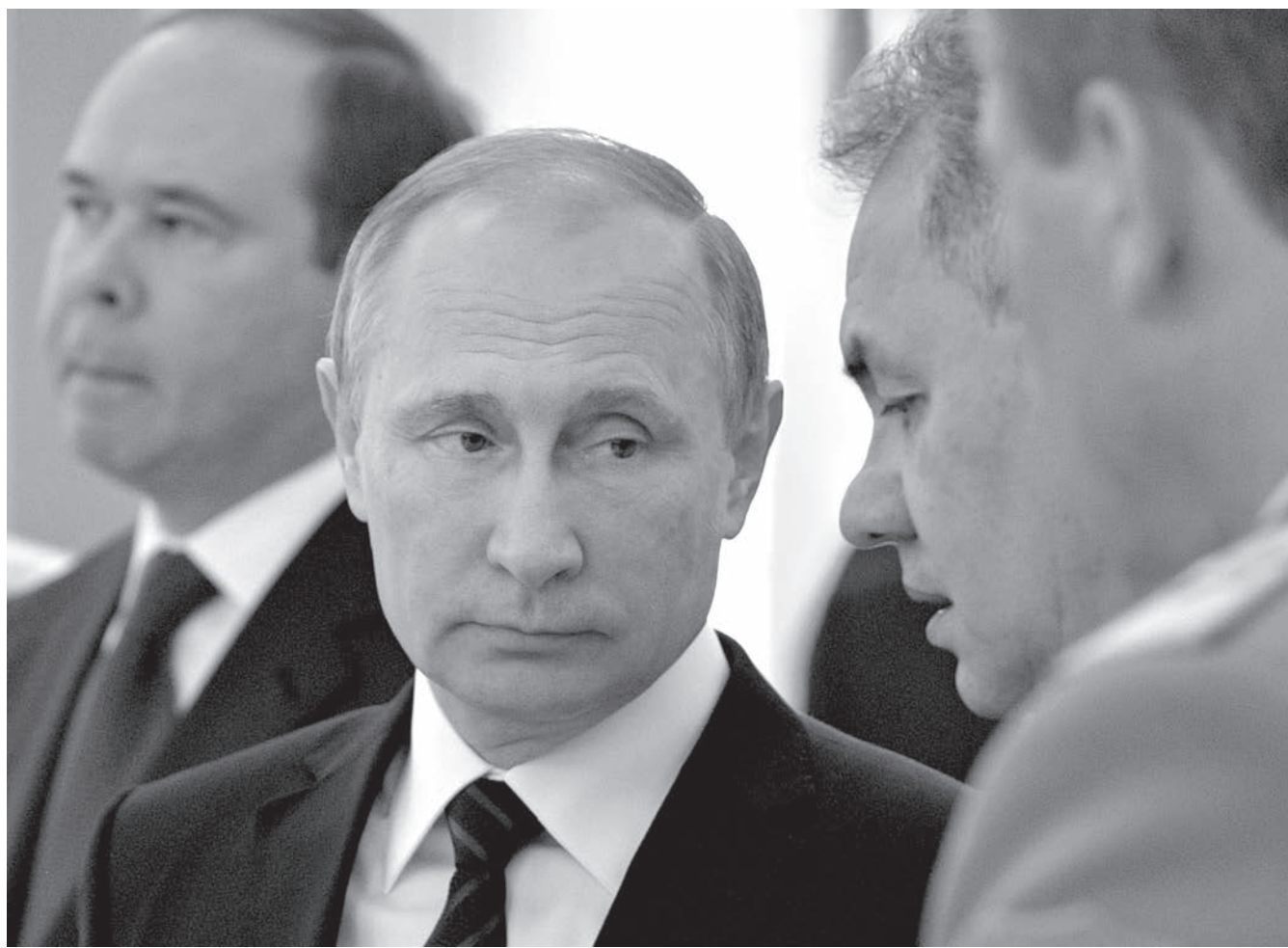
Intel report: Kremlin sees US urging regime change in Russia

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kremlin leaders are convinced America is intent on regime change in Russia, a fear that is feeding rising tension and military competition between the former Cold War foes, the Pentagon's intelligence arm has assessed.

The unclassified report by the Defense Intelligence Agency, which will be publicly released later Wednesday, portrays Russia as increasingly wary of the United States. It cites Moscow's "deep and abiding distrust of U.S. efforts to promote democracy around the world and what it perceives as a U.S. campaign to impose a single set of global values."

"The Kremlin is convinced the United States is laying the groundwork for regime change in Russia, a conviction further reinforced by the events in Ukraine," the report says, referencing the claims by President Vladimir Putin's government that the U.S. engineered the popular uprising that ousted Ukraine's Russia-friendly president, Viktor Yanukovich, in 2014. Russia responded by annexing Ukraine's Crimea region and supporting pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

"Moscow worries that U.S. attempts to dictate a set of acceptable international norms threatens the foundations of Kremlin power by giving li-



Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, listen to Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu at a meeting with graduates of military and police academies in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

cense for foreign meddling in Russia's internal affairs," the report says. Titled "Russia Military Power," it is the agency's first such unclassified assessment in more than two decades.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the report in

advance of its public release. It harkens to Cold War days when the intelligence agency published a series of "Soviet Military Power" studies that defined the contours of the superpower rivalry. Those reports ended with the 1991 demise of the Soviet Union.

Now they return, DIA's director, Marine Lt. Gen. Vincent R. Stewart, says, with an eye on the future of U.S.-Russian relations.

"Within the next decade, an even more confident and capable Russia could emerge," Stewart wrote in a

preface to the report. No new, global ideological struggle akin to the Cold War is forecast, but the report cautions that Moscow "intends to use its military to promote stability on its own terms."

During President Barack Obama's eight years in office,

the U.S.-Russian relationship deteriorated from an initial "reset" to American allegations that Moscow meddled in the 2016 presidential election to aid Donald Trump's victory. In between, were intense disagreements over Ukraine and Syria, where Russia has provided military help to President Bashar Assad's government and the U.S. has backed anti-Assad rebels.

While Trump's campaign rhetoric was widely seen as sympathetic to Russia, ties have not improved in his first six months of his presidency. In April, Trump said U.S.-Russian relations "may be at an all-time low." Trump is expected to meet Putin for the first time at an international summit in Germany next week.

Thursday's report, prepared long before Trump's election, reflects the Pentagon's view of the global security picture shifting after nearly two decades of heavy American focus on countering terrorism and fighting relatively small-scale wars across the Middle East. Russia, in particular, is now at the center of the national security debate in Congress, fed by political divisions over how to deal with Putin and whether his military buildup, perceived threats against NATO and alleged election interference call for a new U.S. approach.

Travel ban a blow to Sudan refugees awaiting US resettlement

CAIRO (AP)—Dozens of Sudanese activists living in Egypt as refugees, many of whom fled fundamentalist Islamic militias and were close to approval for resettlement in the United States, now face legal limbo after the Supreme Court partially reinstated President Donald Trump's travel ban on six Muslim nations, including Sudan.

Many said they are not safe in Egypt because Sudanese agents operating in the country under tacit Egyptian approval regularly threaten them and their families, sometimes targeting them with violence.

Tayeb Ibrahim, who has worked to expose Sudanese government abuses in areas it controls in the country's volatile South Kordofan province, was partially blinded after being attacked with acid by Sudanese government agents, and narrowly escaped being brought back to Sudan after being kidnapped in Egypt.

"I'm totally depressed. I was approved over a year ago

for resettlement, just passed my medical exam last week and was hoping to see family living in Iowa. But instead I'll be stuck here worried about my physical safety," said the 40-year-old Ibrahim, who like many Sudanese refugees has no travel documents and thus cannot leave Egypt.

Sudanese living in Egypt regularly complain of discrimination and harassment, while pro-democracy rights activists and opponents of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's regime say they face abuses by both Sudanese and Egyptian security forces.

Rights groups have in the past documented cases where pro-democracy activists have been targeted by Sudanese secret police with violence, including rape. Egypt has denied any involvement in such targeted abuse.

There are officially some 36,000 Sudanese with refugee status in Egypt, most former residents of Sudan's Darfur region who fled government-sponsored Islamic and tribal

Janjaweed militias in a separatist conflict that was front-page news a decade ago but has now been eclipsed by other regional crises in Syria and Iraq.

"It's like having our own little Islamic State group in Sudan, sponsored by the government, who has been persecuting us for years," said Awad, a 33-year-old Sudanese women's rights activist who has lived in Cairo since 2012. During that time, she said she has been the victim of burglaries and an attack by Sudanese men on a motorbike. Like others interviewed, she declined to give her last name out of fears for her safety.

Sudan's Darfur region has seen violent conflict since 2003, when ethnic Africans rebelled against the Arab-dominated Sudanese government in the capital, Khartoum, accusing it of discrimination and neglect. The United Nations estimates 300,000 people have died in the conflict and some 2.7 million have fled their homes.

Supreme Court bars chief prosecutor from leaving Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's Supreme Court barred the nation's chief prosecutor from leaving the country and ordered her bank accounts frozen hours after she delivered a scathing critique accusing President Nicolas Maduro of "state terrorism."

The government-stacked court announced Wednesday evening that it was proceeding with a complaint filed by a socialist party lawmaker accusing Luisa Ortega Diaz of acting as a de facto opposition leader in violation of her constitutional duties.

The development came as authorities pressed a nationwide manhunt for a police investigator accused of stealing a police helicopter and sending grenades and gunfire at the Supreme Court and Interior Ministry on Tuesday night. Officials found the helicopter abandoned on the coast in Vargas state near Caracas but there was no sign of the fugitive, Oscar Perez.

No one was injured in the attack and there was no sign



of any significant damage at the buildings. But the episode added another layer of intrigue to a 3-month-old political crisis that has left at least 75 people dead and hundreds more jailed after clashes between security forces and protesters demanding Maduro's removal. Many Venezuelans are angry over triple-digit inflation, food shortages and high crime.

Speculation swirled after the dramatic air assault: Did Perez act alone? Is unrest rising in the police and military? Or was it an elaborate

ruse orchestrated by the government to distract attention from Venezuela's problems or justify a tougher crackdown on the opposition?

Julio Borges, president of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, expressed doubts about Maduro's version of events but cautioned that he and the rest of the opposition were still analyzing what happened.

"There are people who say it was a government-staged hoax, others who say it was real," Borges said in a radio interview. "Whatever it was, it all points in the same direction: That the situation in Venezuela is unsustainable."

On his Instagram account, Perez notes his job as a police investigator and tactical helicopter pilot and says his passion is Venezuela. In 2015, he starred in a movie called "Suspended Death," and several photos show him wearing fatigues while holding assault rifles, skydiving and standing in action poses with a German shepherd by his side.

Focus

Finding comfort, and N. Korea, in a tiny restaurant

By TIM SULLIVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INCHEON, South Korea (AP)—The little restaurant isn't much to look at. It's across the street from an empty lot in a city where bland high-rise apartment buildings sprawl in every direction. Boxes of dried fish are stacked by the front window. A dirty mop stands in the corner. The walls are painted a vomitous green.

But people come from across South Korea to eat here. They come for the potato pancakes, the blood sausage and, very often, for a fried street food that many dreamed of back when nearly everyone they knew was hungry. More than anything, though, they come for memories of the food brings back of an outcast homeland they may never see again.

"This is the taste of where they came from," says the restaurant's owner, a refugee who asks to be identified only by her surname, Choi. "The food here tastes the ways it does in North Korea."

More than 30,000 North Koreans now live in South Korea, having fled poverty, hunger and the relentless pressures of life in an oppressive, authoritarian state. But for most, life in the South is far from ideal. Raised amid dictatorial dysfunction, and normally poorly educated, the exiles stumble into a brutally competitive nation where they are regularly disdained by their neighbors.

"Chon-nom" they are often called—"bumpkin."

That derision, combined with their own disillusionment, can churn into a stew of suspicion, resentment and ambivalence. And though they may hate the nation they left behind, many also miss it deeply. Because how can you not miss home?

"Our lives here can be so difficult," said a North Korean now living in the South, and who spoke on condition her name not be used. "But finding that restaurant made me so happy."

Choi has built them a tiny island of North Korean life that starts to feel crowded if it has more than a half-dozen customers. In a burst of optimism she named it Howol-ilga, "People from Different Homelands Come to Gather in One Place."

"My place is a comfort for them," says Choi, 39, in



This Tuesday, June 20, 2017, photo, shows Howol-ilga, a restaurant in Incheon, South Korea. Outside Seoul, a tiny restaurant whose Korean name means "People from Different Homelands Come to Gather in One Place" attracts patrons from across the country serving up potato pancakes, blood sausage, and memories of North Korea—the outcast homeland those patrons may never see again.

a Northern accent so thick it can be barely comprehensible at first to Southerners. "When they come here and find a menu so similar to what they ate back home, they know they can relax."

At first glance Choi doesn't seem very relaxing. Gruff and often scowling, restaurant work has left her hands patterned with small knife cuts and her forearms spattered by ugly oil burns. She has only two employees, and keeps the restaurant open seven days a week. Exhaustion is a constant. She cannot remember her last day off.

But she eventually—when she finally sits down to talk, chugging a can of Georgia Original coffee—a smile crosses her face.

Choi grew up in a small town so close to North Korea's Amnok River border that you could wave to people in China. She learned cooking from her father, a onetime military cook who loved working in kitchens—rare in the North's deeply conservative culture—and from relatives who smuggled in goods from China. "They had learned Chinese cooking there," she said.

The family was far from



In this June 16, 2017, photo, a serving of blood sausage, known locally as "soondae" is placed on a plate in Pyongyang, North Korea.



In this Friday, June 16, 2017, photo, "injogogibap" or beancurd skin stuffed with rice, a dish invented during the famine, is dipped into a spicy sauce in Pyongyang, North Korea.

rich, but made enough trading in clothes, cheap electronics and DVDs of South Korean TV shows to count as middle-class. It was enough to avoid the horrors of North Korea's mid-1990s famine, which killed at least 500,000 people and perhaps well over a million. Years later, most North Korean refugees still refer to the famine by its Pyongyang-mandated euphemism.

"Even in the Arduous March we didn't suffer much," Choi says, shrugging. "It's my family's fate to escape living in poverty."

She left the North in 2012, looking for a better life for her young son, and opened the restaurant two years later.

Modesty isn't an issue for her.

"All of my customers talk about how good I am," she says. "They tell me: 'When I eat in other restaurants, it doesn't taste like what I used to eat in the North. What you cook tastes completely different!'"

A South Korean, she insists, could never succeed in her kitchen.

"A cook's appetite is different" when they come from another place, she says, leaning

against one of her fake wood tables. "They taste things in a different way. So how could they cook this kind of food?"

Food and history are as tangled at Howol-ilga as they are in North Korea, where three generations of dictators have vowed to end a relentless, centuries-old struggle against hunger.

"Socialism is rice!" the country's founding ruler, Kim Il Sung, proclaimed regularly in the 1960s, promising that everyone would soon be eating meat soup and rice every day. Instead, as South Korea became a global economic power the North lurched into its nightmare years, culminating in the 1990s famine. While the era of mass starvation is over malnutrition remains a major problem, particularly among young children and pregnant women. And many Northerners still use food to talk about money and class differences, often saying, for example, that only the rich "eat rice every day."

One of Choi's best-loved dishes is injogogibap, a street food invented during the famine, when it was the closest thing to meat most people could afford.

Bits of leftover fried tofu, which in earlier days had been thrown away, were scraped from pots and pressed into hot dog-sized tubes that were then stuffed with rice. It's delicious and filling (though tastes nothing like meat), with the tofu absorbing random flavors from cooking pots.

At the worst of times, when the smell of frying injogogibap would waft from food stalls into streets filled with hungry people, it became an object of fantasy. Even today some exiles dream about it.

That doesn't surprise Sonia Ryang, an anthropologist at Rice University in Texas who grew up in a pro-North Korea community in Japan, and who has written extensively about the North. To smell injogogibap was to dream of filling your stomach at a time when starvation was wiping out entire neighborhoods.

"Far from not wanting to remember, they want to remember," says Ryang. "Because it was proof that they were alive."

Choi's explanation is simpler. During the famine, she says, food was something that could always make people happy.

She smiles: "Eating is joyful."

Science & Technology

How vacationing business owners cope with being unreachable

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—While hiking in the Himalayas for three weeks, Mike Scanlin had no cellphone service much of the time and no way to charge his phone. Running his business—a one-man operation—became a very sporadic proposition.

It was a calculated risk. “I felt I was going to lose customers, lose some business if they couldn’t get a response for three days,” says Scanlin, owner of Born to Sell, a business software company based in Las Vegas.

“But it’s worth maybe losing a bit of business to accomplish the items on your bucket list.”

Changes in technology have made it possible for vacationing small business owners to never be out of touch—unless they decide to go to a part of the world without enough cellphone towers, bandwidth or electricity. Sometimes they find out by surprise. But many understand that they’re losing their tether to their companies. Some leave the business in the



hands of trusted employees, or have projects and pressing matters dealt with so being out of contact won’t be a problem.

Scanlin was able to check emails when the hiking group made it to the top of inclines during his 2012 trip. But in valleys where they camped, there was no service. And

even when Scanlin could get a connection, he couldn’t download documents or photos, and the nine hour-plus time difference with the U.S. meant a lag between emails and replies. He couldn’t go online to fix any problems that might come up with his website, and there was no one back home who

could do it.

It did make Scanlin, whose company was a year-and-a-half-old when he made the trek, a little uneasy. Born to Sell survived, however, and he has since visited places like Peru and Easter Island, located nearly 2,200 miles off the coast of Chile, where

In this Sept. 23, 2015, photo, provided by small business owner Mike Scanlin, Scanlin poses for a photo on Easter Island in the South Pacific, a Chilean territory.

cellphone and internet service were often unavailable.

Checking in is the norm for most owners. With tablets or smartphones in hand, many set aside time on a trip to at least read important emails or touch base with employees and important clients. In a recent survey of 700 small business owners and managers released by American Express, the vast majority said they check in by phone or email while on vacation. More than half of those do so at least once a day. But nearly a quarter don’t check in.

Aaron Hockel knew before he left on his two-week honeymoon to Peru last summer he would have minimal access to a cellphone network or the internet. So he decided to just be offline and leave the digital marketing company, AltaVista Strategic Partners, in the care of his three business partners

and 15 staffers. They would deal with customers and issues that were his domain.

“It was a scary proposition at first because two weeks is a long time to disconnect,” says Hockel, whose company is based in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

At places like Machu Picchu, the historic Incan mountain fortress, there wasn’t any connectivity. But even at a hotel with Wi-Fi, Hockel ignored his email inbox.

“I knew, if I open this, I’m opening a Pandora’s box,” Hockel says. When he returned home, he found he’d made the right choice: “Our staff did an incredible job communicating and tackling issues.”

Corey Kupfer, an attorney for 30 years who also has a speaking and consulting business, called his office several times a day from vacations in the early years of his practice. By about 15 years ago, he was calling just once a day, and Kupfer realized the problems his staff talked to him about were things they could handle on their own. He told them he wouldn’t call in on his next vacation.

TECH Q&A: Fixing a ‘full’ iPhone and iCloud

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: Even though I don’t use Apple’s iCloud service, it sends me messages that say my online storage is almost full (3.2 gigabytes left out of 5), and suggests that I buy more storage. At the same time, I keep getting “storage full” messages on my iPhone 6 (11.71 gigabytes used, 0 available), often when I need to take an important picture. I do back up my photos on my computer, but why can’t I keep them on my iPhone, too?—Debbie Teegarden, Prairieville, La.

A: You can’t keep an unlimited number of photos on your iPhone because it has a limited amount of internal storage, 16 gigabytes. And that is shared by the iOS operating system, your apps and the data you save, such as photos.

When that storage space fills, you get a warning from the iPhone. The warning means you have to delete something in order for your iPhone to store any new data. Usually, the solution is to delete photos, because they use up more storage space than other phone data, such as email.

Why is your phone’s memory so full when you have

backed up your photos to your computer? Because the backups created only duplicates of the original pictures. The original photos remained on the phone, taking up space in its storage.

The iCloud warning is different. It indicates that the online storage service has been automatically backing up your iPhone’s photos and other data. That happened because you were given 5 gigabytes of free iCloud storage space when you got the phone, and the phone’s automatic backup setting was turned on.

That free iCloud storage space is now partly filled. As a result, you are getting early warnings about running out of online storage, plus sales pitches to buy more. (Note that if you delete some photos from your phone, they will also be deleted from iCloud, freeing up some of its storage capacity for new pictures.) You can turn off iCloud backups to avoid the warnings and sales pitches (see tinyurl.com/nsjcrsw).

What should you do to avoid storage shortages? Back up photos to your computer more frequently, then delete those same photos from the phone. Computer

backups are free, and your computer’s hard drive has far more storage capacity than your phone.

There’s another alternative that is considerably more expensive: Buy a new phone that has more storage. That would allow you to take more photos before you need to delete them.

Q: I’d like to use the Dropbox cloud storage program, but when I tried to sign up I was told it would not support Windows 7. Can I install Dropbox without changing my version of Windows?—Chris Gallutia, Reynoldsburg, Ohio

A: Dropbox does work with Windows 7. But you will have trouble is if you are trying to run the Dropbox application in what is called “compatibility mode,” a Windows setting that allows you to run programs that were intended for other versions of the operating system.

To turn off compatibility mode, right click the Dropbox icon on your screen. In the resulting list, click “properties.” On the following screen, click the “compatibility” tab. Uncheck the box beside “run this program in compatibility mode,” then click the “apply” button.

Science Matters

Elephants’ family tree gets shuffled

A giant 13-ton elephant, now extinct, roamed Europe only 50,000 years ago, and new evidence challenges the long-held theory that its closest living descendant is the Asian elephant.

Family’s new alignment

African savannah elephant	African forest elephant	Asian elephant
<i>Loxodonta africana</i> 10.5 ft (3.2 m); 6 tons	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i> 9.2 ft (2.8 m) 4 tons	<i>Elephas maximus</i> 9 ft (2.75 m) 4 tons

Note: All drawings are to same scale. Sizes given for the largest males; height is at the shoulder.

The new genetic evidence also confirms that there are two distinct species of African elephant

Straight-tusked elephant

Palaeoloxodon antiquus
Became extinct about 50,000 years ago
13 ft. (4 m) tall
13 tons
Was hunted by pre-modern humans

Map of its range
Dots locate remains found
Last ones may have lived here

Woolly mammoth

Became extinct 4,000 years ago
Mammuthus primigenius
10.3 ft. (3.15 m); 6 tons

Source: Alfred Roca of University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; eLife journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Motorcycle lover to be buried in his Harley-Davidson sidecar

STEEL CITY, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man who loved motorcycles and recently died is taking one last ride. Family members say 89-year-old Steel City resident Arthur Werner Sr. made plans way ahead of his death from cancer Sunday to be buried in the sidecar of his 1990 Harley-Davidson Heritage Softail. LehighValleyLive.com reports he found a funeral home run by motorcycle enthusiasts who were more than able to comply. Heintzelman Funeral Home has three motorcycle hearses in its fleet. David Heintzelman says the funeral home doesn't even have to modify the sidecar to make it happen. Werner will be in the sidecar for Thursday's viewing and will be buried in it Friday. He bought the Harley with his retirement bonus after working 42 years as a Bethlehem Steel welder. His daughter-in-law Cindy Werner says "he lived for that bike."

Oops: Court says man won't get mistaken \$2.7M severance

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—Well, it was a nice try. The Michigan appeals court says in

a ruling released Wednesday that a man who was mistakenly told that he would receive a \$2.7 million severance can't collect the windfall. Francois El-Hayek was laid off from Trico Products in suburban Detroit in 2014. He was told that he would receive about \$81,000 a week for 34 weeks. But it was a mistake. Trico says the document should have said El-Hayek would get a total of roughly \$81,000. El-Hayek didn't receive any of the inflated payments and sued Trico, saying the company violated the deal by not paying the larger amount. He says \$81,000 a week for 34 weeks seemed fair, based on his 28 years of service. But the appeals court says a contract can be fixed when someone in El-Hayek's shoes knows about the mistake but remains silent.

Suspect took joyride on street sweeper, crashed and fled

PATERSON, N.J. (AP)—Police in New Jersey are looking for a suspect who stole a street sweeper and went on a brief joyride before crashing it. Paterson police say the theft happened around 2 a.m. Wednesday as a worker was changing

a garbage bag on the vehicle. The suspect drove the vehicle for about a half mile and then crashed into several cars before running away. No one was injured, but several parked cars were damaged.

Fish market owner upset by large lobster TSA photo

OLD SAYBROOK, Conn. (AP)—The owner of a Connecticut fish market says she is "personally offended" after she saw a photo of a 20-pound (9-kilogram) lobster being handled by a Transportation Security Administration screener on social media. Lisa Feinman owns Atlantic Seafood Market in Old Saybrook, and says she packed the lobster in a cooler with other lobsters for a customer from Georgia. TSA spokesman Michael McCarthy later shared a photo of a screener holding the lobster, getting thousands of likes on Instagram. In a Facebook post, Feinman says the TSA should "leave our personal property alone." She also criticized the way the agent held the lobster, saying he could have snapped off a claw by putting all of its weight on its joints. The agency has not responded to requests for comment.



EDWIN FRANK ALDAN CASTRO

12 January 1961 – 10 July 2007

TENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

A beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, and brother...

In remembrance of our beloved †EDWIN FRANK ALDAN CASTRO, we his family invite our relatives and friends to join us in commemorating his **TENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**

Beginning **Sunday, 02 July 2017 to Monday, 10 July 2017.**

The celebration of Holy Mass for the repose of his soul will be offered every day at Santa Soledad Parish in Kagman according to the following schedule:

- Sunday, 02 July 2017: 8:30AM
- Monday, 03 July 2017 – Saturday, 08 July 2017: 6:00PM
- Sunday, 09 July 2017: 8:30AM

Lisayon Guma will also be said for him daily at 5:30PM at the Castro Family Residence in Kagman I.

On the final day, Monday, 10 July 2017, Holy Rosary will be said at 5:00PM at the Castro Family Residence followed by Holy Mass at Santa Soledad Parish at 6:00PM

Dinner will be served immediately at the Castro Family Residence in Kagman I.

Your prayers, thoughts, and presence are forever appreciated.

From
Susan Santos Castro
Julie Jane, Manuela, Solomon, Francisco, Virginia
Francisco C. Castro and family

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† Leonora Santos Agulto Castro

Better known as Nora or No'

Born May 12, 1964, Passed away in the grace of our Lord on June 22, 2017

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Ignacio Palacios Agulto & †Prudenciana (Chana) Hocog Santos Agulto
Brother: †Ignacio Santos Agulto Jr.
Parents in Law: †Marceliano & Dolores B. Castro
Brother & Sister in Law: †Francisco B. Castro
‡Alice C. Manglona
God Parents: †Jesus A. Arriola (Baptismal)
‡Lucinda R. Sablan (Confirmation)

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Spouse: Jesus Babauta Castro
Children: Jesse Ryan, Anthony, Audrey Jean (AJ)
Siblings: Akiy Agulto & Family
Connie Agulto & Family
Leng/John Lizama & Family
Dard/Rit B. Agulto & Family
Viol/Jack Diaz & Family
Ned/Del Tudela Agulto & Family
Bill/Candie K. Agulto & Family
Ern Agulto & Family
Ben/Rit C. Agulto & Family
Rose Sharon/ Anson Jones

God Parents: Juanita "Ann" Arriola Krusee (Baptismal)
Crispin M. Sablan (Spouse of †Lucinda R. Sablan)
In Laws: Terry B. Castro & Family
Juan/Rosa C. Castro & Family
Martin/Maggie M. Castro & Family
Roman/Cecilia Castro & Family
John Manglona & Family
Lolita/Jose C. Mafnas & Family
Antonio/Mari Car Castro
Vicente/Lucy Castro & Family
Augustina/Augustin Kaneshi & Family
Jose/Faye Castro & Family

She will be greatly missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, God children & close friends.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. On Monday, July 3, 2017, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS.

Thank you - Si Yuus Marase

JESUS B. CASTRO, CHILDREN & FAMILY



Life & Style

20 years later, new generation of Harry Potter fans

NEW YORK (AP)—K'lyssa Moore wasn't that much older than the elementary school students she now teaches when she first fell in love with Harry Potter soon after the books first started coming out.

The 28-year-old reads at least part of the first book to her classes, and isn't at all surprised when they fall under the spell of the boy wizard, just like she did, and are endlessly curious about what happens next, just like she was. But the similarity ends there, since they have something she didn't—all seven books at their disposal.

As the 20th anniversary of the initial publishing of the first Harry Potter book is celebrated this week, another generation is being introduced to Harry, Hogwarts and all the rest of the magical world created by author J.K. Rowling.

For some of their first-generation-fan parents and other adults often doing the introducing, there's a little bit of wistfulness that their kids won't get to experience the midnight book release parties and other hoopla that surrounded the Harry Potter publishing phenomenon.



Theo Galkin, 8, rereads a favorite part of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" while posing for a picture with his mother Chloe Galkin at their home in South Orange, N.J., Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

For others, though, there's the slightest bit of (cheerful) envy that their kids won't have to wait to find out what happens next.

Moore is firmly in the first camp.

"Part of it, the fun of being a fan when the books were coming out, you were living

it as Harry and all the characters were living it," the Lubbock, Texas, resident said. "The wait between books was kind of like the summers they had in-between school when Harry was disconnected from the (magical) world. You do miss out on getting to make up your own theories and getting

to guess what you think is going to happen because you can pick up the book and find out right away."

Chloe Galkin is pretty sure she could probably live with that. The 41-year-old from Maplewood, New Jersey, has seen her 8-year-old son Theo tear through the entire series.

"I think I would have loved to have them all, just the way he does," she said. "We'll finish one, he can't wait to start the next one. I think that's almost better in a way that you can read them continuously."

The first book in the Harry Potter series was published in Britain on June 26, 1997. It's since sold more than 450 million copies globally, in 79 languages. It took 10 years for all the books to come out, with multi-year gaps between offerings.

And remember, the discussions and events and fan theories were there because people needed to find ways to pass the time, pointed out Erin Pyne, 40, of Orlando, Florida. She should know—her immersion in all things Harry Potter led her to working with Universal Studios on its massively popular Harry Potter themed park attraction.

"This Harry Potter generation," which includes her 6-year-old son, Rowan, "is so lucky, because they don't have to wait," she said. "We had to wait and wait and WAIT."

Emma Joannis can't imagine that. The 10-year-old read the series starting with one of the numerous copies of the

first book owned by her stepmother, Josee Leblanc.

"I'm glad that I didn't have to wait because I could just read them all and not have to stop," said Joannis, of Montreal, through Leblanc's translation. She admitted the idea of midnight book release parties and other events had a certain appeal, though. "It sounded like fun, being all together," she said.

Envious or not, sharing the Harry Potter love with a new generation has been a joy and a testament to the staying power of the books, said Clayton Lord, 36, who has read the first four with his husband and their 6-year-old daughter, Cici. Prior to starting that effort last year, he hadn't re-read the first books in the series in many years.

"There are things that you read when you're younger and then you get back to them and you realize they're not all you thought they were," said Lord, of Edgewater, Maryland. When it comes to Harry Potter, even after many years, "they're very very well-crafted, the writing is really beautiful and controlled ... I think that they hold up incredibly well."

TV, films turning to young girls for their new action stars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—From the murderous Laura in "Logan" to the mysterious Eleven in "Stranger Things" to the audacious determination of Mija in "Okja," opening Wednesday, powerful young girls are starring in mainstream action fare like never before.

Though Nancy Drew was solving mysteries in the 1930s and Buffy slayed vampires all through high school in the late 1990s, young girls are rarely shown as heroes in programs aimed at general audiences, said Mary Celeste Kearney, director of gender studies and a professor of film, television and theater at University of Notre Dame.

"Girls have seen these figures... but when they've looked to mainstream stuff and what their brothers and their dads and boys are watching, those girls are never there," Kearney said. "And now they are, and that's huge."

It means girls don't have to look to grown up heroes like Katniss Everdeen in "The Hunger Games" or Rey in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." Like 10-year-old Elliot on the flying bicycle in "E.T. the Extraterrestrial," now girls

are having awesome genre adventures as powerful young kids onscreen.

The Duffer Brothers said gender was never a question when it came to creating the super-powered star character in their Netflix series "Stranger Things." Eleven, played by 13-year-old Millie Bobby Brown, can move things with her mind and is the fascinating secret friend of a group of pre-teen boys in the fictional town of Hawkins, Indiana.

"Eleven was always a girl. I don't even remember when or why we made that decision except that was always the case," Matt Duffer said in a recent interview. "Eleven was the centerpiece of the show for us always and was always going to be this girl who escaped the lab... I think we liked the idea because it wasn't something we had seen before."

A second little girl is joining the cast for the show's second season, which premieres Oct. 31.

Writer-director Bong Joon Ho intentionally made his central human character a girl in "Okja," an international adventure film named for the genetically engineered six-ton

"super pig" at its heart.

"In cartoons or movies, young girls are often portrayed as characters that need to be protected or rescued. I wanted to do the opposite," the filmmaker said in an email. "I liked that a young female character was the unstoppable guardian of a creature, and that she had to charge and break through all obstacles that stood in her way. I liked this feeling."

Played by 13-year-old An Seo Hyun, Mija has grown up with Okja, and risks everything to protect the massive creature when the corporation that sponsored the super-pig program comes to claim its product.

One thing that's missing from "Okja" and the other projects is a stereotypical little girl who needs saving.

"Logan" writer-director James Mangold can't take credit for creating the young female mutant Laura—he mined the character from "X-Men" history. But Mangold cast an exceptional actress, 11-year-old Dafne Keen, and successfully brought a killer female character to the ultra-male world of big-screen superheroes.

He chose to make Laura a child rather than the teenager she is in the comics because of the bond it would allow with Hugh Jackman's character and the shock it might elicit when Laura draws her claws.

Like Hit-Girl in 2010's "Kick-Ass," Laura is a character created in her father's image. She's Wolverine's daughter and has just as much flesh-shredding power as her dad.

"I did think the shocking nature of Laura's ability to kill savagely would be all the more shocking, in a really wonderful way, that it was a girl and not a boy, that that lethality would be exhibited by this little girl," Mangold said. "I wondered whether we could pull it off, whether the audience would truly believe this level of violence and intensity trapped inside an 11-year-old body. To me that made it even more exciting to put it on the screen."

Mangold said he took care with Laura's character, who's mute for the first half of the film and speaks only Spanish in the second, to "undermine the kind of cute factor of what this young woman would be and allow her to exist as her

own unique character."

It's notable, too, that these young heroines are not all embodied by white actresses.

Kearney says it's more than just the "Wonder Woman" effect inspiring these empowered characters: "History has everything to do with this and the gender politics of different historical moments."

The powerful women and girls onscreen reflect more progressive gender attitudes, she said, adding that some writers and producers may have been inspired to create such heroes out of a desire to see more real-life female leaders.

She noted the recent crop of characters all exist in "fantasy narratives," where people can have super powers.

"It's not in our reality; it's in some other reality, and that's really disheartening if you think about it in that way," she said. "Like girls are great as action heroes, but not as president of the United States, not in real life."

Consider that "Billy Elliot," the charming, realistic 2000 independent film about an 11-year-old boy who learns about gender and identity through dance, became a sleeper hit that was adapted for the stage. "The Fits," a

similarly realistic, 2016 indie film about an 11-year-old girl who does the same, didn't get the same reception.

Girl action heroes are a start, though, especially ones with mass-market appeal.

"They have a powerful, powerful cultural impact," Kearney said, "which is girls seeing these things and boys seeing girls do these things.... A boy can't go and see 'Logan' and not see a girl as powerful as Logan."

The Duffer Brothers note that Eleven is the show's most popular character and best-selling action figure. Mangold said that when his pre-teen sons visited the set during the making of "Logan," they were more interested in Laura than Wolverine himself.

"They were completely mesmerized by her," he said. "It's really refreshing for everyone to see a kid, especially a young girl, who's not a kewpie doll first or a dimpled smile first, you know? That what's really going on there is someone in conflict, someone who's searching for something, someone who's capable—someone also, by the way, in my film who ends up offering pretty intense advice and wisdom and stability."

'Big Bang Theory' star home destroyed by California wildfire

Trump attacks Washington Post, Amazon over 'internet taxes'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump attacked The Washington Post and Amazon on Twitter Wednesday, arguing that the online retailer was not paying "internet taxes."

Trump stated on Twitter Wednesday: "The #AmazonWashingtonPost, sometimes referred to as the guardian of Amazon not paying internet taxes (which they should) is FAKE NEWS!"

It was not immediately clear what Trump meant by "internet taxes." The White House declined to answer questions about the president's statement.

Amazon.com collects state sales taxes in all 45 states with a sales tax and the District of Columbia, according to their website.

State governments have sought to capture sales taxes lost to internet retailers, though they have struggled with a 1992 Supreme Court ruling that retailers must have a physical presence in a state before officials can make them collect sales tax.

Amazon did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Washington Post spokeswoman Shani George declined comment.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos bought the Washington Post in 2013. He made the purchase as an individual and Amazon.com Inc. was not involved.

Bezos was one of a number of technology executives who visited the White House recently for a strategy session on modernizing government.

Trump has taken shots at Bezos and Amazon on Twitter before.

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (AP)—The home of "Big Bang Theory" star Johnny Galecki has been destroyed in a wildfire in California.

Nicole Perna, a spokeswoman for the 42-year-old actor, says his home on a ranch in the San Luis Obispo area was destroyed by the wildfire

on the state's central coast.

By Tuesday night, a 2.5-square-mile (6.5 sq. kilometer) wildfire in the region was 60 percent contained. Fire officials have only confirmed that the wildfire has destroyed



Galecki

one building and have no details, but the full damage done by wildfires often can't be assessed until they have been mostly contained.

About 250 residents were ordered

from their homes in the area of Santa Margarita after the blaze erupted Monday, but on Tuesday night they were told they could return home.

Galecki plays Dr. Leonard Hofstadter on the show, one of the most popular on TV. He also was a regular on the sitcom "Roseanne."

Film academy invites Thor, Wonder Woman to joins its ranks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thor, Captain America, Wonder Woman and Betty White have been invited to join the film academy.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences revealed its latest invitees on Wednesday, which include several artists from the worlds of action and comedy.

"We are looking in areas that historically we hadn't," film academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs said in an interview. The organization invited 774 new members to join its ranks — the largest class ever.

Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans, Gal Gadot, all famous for their superhero roles, were invited to join the actors' branch. Other actors receiving invites include White, Dwayne Johnson, Riz Ahmed, Terry Crews, Chris Pratt, Anna Faris, Priyanka Chopra, Donald Glover and Zoe Kravitz. Several "Saturday Night Live" alumnae were also invited: Amy Poehler, Molly Shannon, Maya Rudolph and current stars Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones.

"It takes a lot to be a comedic actor," Boone Isaacs said, "and certainly the branch is

recognizing this talent."

She said the organization's efforts toward inclusivity may have inspired interest among a broader range of prospective members, who must be sponsored by existing members to be considered.

The film academy reports that its new class is 39 percent female and 30 percent non-white. The organization has been diversifying its ranks after two years of #OscarsSoWhite and criticism of its overwhelmingly white and male voting body. Women now comprise 28 percent of acad-

emy membership and non-whites account for 13 percent.

"This conversation that the academy has been having for the last couple years has really energized our base, has really energized our members and the community," Boone Isaacs said.

Besides including filmmakers from traditionally overlooked genres, the new class of invitees also represents 57 countries.

"We've recognized great talent around the world, but in one area we were not as active, and that is membership," she said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Elvis Presley hit 'Love Me Tender' inspires picture book

NEW YORK (AP)—One of Elvis Presley's biggest hits is the latest song to be turned into a picture book, and part of an effort to introduce the King to a new generation. Dial Books for Young Readers told The Associated Press on Wednesday that a book based on "Love Me Tender" is coming out Nov. 13. "Elvis Presley's Love Me Tender" will be illustrated by Stephanie Graegin and include an endnote by Presley's widow, Priscilla Presley. Dial Books is calling the new release "a heartwarming ode" to the parent-child bond. Presley died 40 years ago this summer, and representatives for his estate are planning a merchandise program for infants and toddlers. Other songs inspiring children's books in recent years include "This Land is Your Land," "Imagine" and "Blowin' in the Wind."

Sons to attend birthday service at Princess Diana's grave

LONDON (AP)—Prince William, his wife, Kate, and Prince Harry will attend a private service at the late Princess Diana's grave on what would have been her 56th birthday. In a brief statement, Kensington Palace said Wednesday that the July 1

service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and attended by Diana's family. The service comes several weeks before the 20th anniversary of her in August 1997 death in a Paris car crash. Diana is buried on the grounds of Althorp estate, her family's ancestral home in the countryside near Northampton in central England. William and Harry, who were 15 and 12 years old when their mother died, are marking the anniversary by commissioning a statue of Diana that will stand in the public gardens of Kensington Palace in London.

Back for an encore: Kelly Clarkson plans second picture book

NEW YORK (AP)—After releasing a best-selling children's book, Kelly Clarkson is back for an encore. HarperCollins Publishers announced Wednesday that the Grammy winner's "River Rose and the Magical Christmas" is coming out Oct. 24. The picture book is illustrated by Lucy Fleming and continues Clarkson's "River Rose" series, which began last year with "River Rose and the Magical Lullaby." The new release also will include an original Christmas song by Clarkson. Meanwhile, Clarkson is working on a new album, which also is expected to come out later this year.



SOLD FOR \$2.6 MILLION

This 2017 photo provided by Profiles in History shows an R2-D2 droid pieced together over several years from different props used in the first five Star Wars movies. The droid has sold at auction for \$2.6 million.

AP

Suicide rate among older men is overlooked tragedy

DEAR ABBY: My elderly father's dearest friend committed suicide yesterday. He shot himself in the head. The family wasn't even aware that he was depressed. Dad has lost three wonderful friends this way in recent years. He's heartbroken thinking that his buddies were secretly suffering.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of suicide for men 70 and older in the U.S. is more than double the overall suicide rate. Yet, with all of our suicide prevention efforts, this high-risk group seems to be ignored.

How can we help prevent these tragedies? What are the signs of depression in older men? And what can families do if they suspect depression in "Dad," "Gramps" or "Uncle John"? Thank you for any help you can provide.

VAN IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR VAN: Please convey to your father how sorry I am for his loss. I think the first thing people have to remember is that men in general do not manifest depression the way women do because women are more open about sharing their feelings. Men, particularly older men, were not raised to do that because they were taught that expressing emotion was "weak," so they stay silent. And men who were once breadwinners, active and vital, can become depressed

when they retire.

Among the RISK FACTORS are:

- Having lost a wife or significant other;
 - Being alone and isolated;
 - Concern about being a burden;
 - Substance abuse (alcohol or prescription drugs);
 - Firearms in the house.
- SIGNS TO LOOK FOR include:
- Lack of energy;
 - Lack of motivation;
 - Less interest in eating or getting out of the house;
 - Loss of interest in activities the person once enjoyed.

A common mistake people make is thinking these things are happening because a person is old. If you observe a change in someone's behavior, it is all right to ask the person what's going on. Keep in mind that people who feel connected are less likely to harm themselves. Isolation is the enemy. Visit them, or take them out so they won't feel alone.

It's also important to help seniors meet others they can relate to, particularly if their friends are dying off. A senior center can provide a place to socialize and meet new people. Exercise is important, too, and many senior centers provide exercise facilities.

Equally important is volunteering. Older men are valuable

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

assets to the community and should be encouraged to regard themselves that way. They have a lifetime of experience to offer, which should not be wasted. By helping these men get and stay connected, you could actually be saving a life.

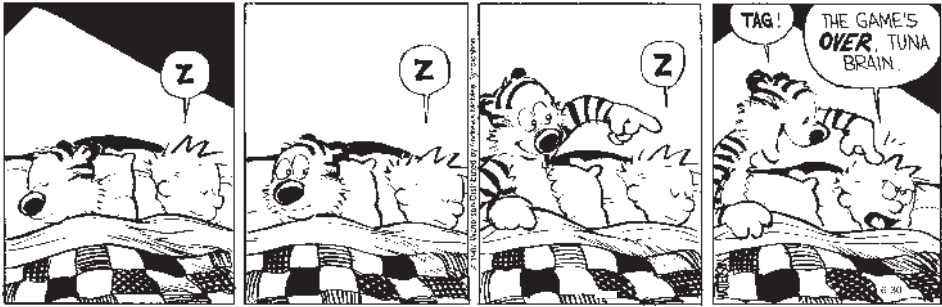
A final thought: As people age, they often have physical problems that are associated with depression. (Heart disease is one.) If you need advice about how to approach someone about your worries, an excellent resource is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The toll-free number is 800-273-8255.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Satchel for one 4 IV measures serving 7 Hosiery shade texts 12 Writer Harper 47 Year in Spain 13 Discoverer's call 48 "Splashy" summer bash 14 Wedding setting 52 Silent 15 Fury 53 Mountain crest 16 "Monopoly" purchase 54 Shoe width 18 Stannum 55 Diner dessert 19 Poker payments 56 Not as good 20 Gusto 57 911 responder 22 Jargon suffix 58 Rds. 23 Frozen desserts 27 Texas tea 29 Foreign correspondent? 31 Radiant 34 Oscar-winning Borgnine film 35 Tam topper 37 Bit of wit

DOWN 1 Media barrage 2 High nest 3 Davis of "Thelma & Louise" 4 Club in a Manilow song 5 Designer Coco 6 Varieties 7 Reveille's opposite 8 100% 9 Broadway's Hagen 10 Lobbying org. 11 Before 17 Retain 21 Eccentric 23 Foolish class 24 YMCA 25 Nosh 26 Devious 28 — Jima 30 Outback bird 31 PC program 32 Stickum 33 Run after K 36 Ginormous 37 For now (Lat.) 40 Concur 42 Muffles 43 Arctic native 44 Big books 45 Duel tool 46 Russian refusal 48 Dog's foot 49 Granada gold 50 Not 'neath 51 USN officers

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-30

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Phelps, 32; Monica Potter, 46; Mike Tyson, 51; David Alan Grier, 62.

Happy Birthday: Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Cover your steps and make sure you have everything in order. Protect your personal information and avoid being too open about your possessions or your beliefs. Stick to the people you know you can trust and pick up the information that will ensure you will not be subject to unwanted change. Your numbers are 8, 19, 25, 27, 31, 34, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Travel and dealing with siblings, friends or neighbors will pose problems for you if you aren't able to control the situation. Overindulgence on your part or someone else's could damage your relationship. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Physical alterations will boost your ego and put a twinkle back in your eyes. Your confidence will help you get ahead professionally and personally. Celebrate with people you find inspirational and leave room for romance. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for the good in everyone and everything. A positive attitude will deter others from messing with you. Don't let negativity or grumpiness bring you down. If someone around you can't be amicable, seek out someone else instead. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make romance a priority. Personal physical changes geared toward better health and

fitness will pay off, while indulgence will set you back. Make wise choices and eliminate bad habits. Start a new hobby. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make your personal life a priority. A subtle change will give you the pick-me-up you need. Plan a romantic get-together or a night out with friends. An unexpected conversation will give you something to think about. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be careful when dealing with your money or your possessions. Someone will be anxious to take advantage of you if you aren't careful about donations and lending to others. Focus on your health and your future. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on what you can do to make your life better. Do your best to stabilize any situation by doing what's best for you. Added discipline will give you the courage to do what needs to be done. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Control your emotions. If you or someone else overreacts, it will set off a chain of events that will slow you down. Keep your life simple and move forward at a steady pace. People with bad habits are best kept at arm's length. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Offer advice and encouragement, but when it comes to making a donation or taking on what doesn't belong to you, take a pass. Overindulgence could lead to disaster. Dismiss bad habits instead of feeding them. ****

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Too much of anything will end up weighing you down. Emotional persuasion will prompt you to get involved in something that isn't in your best interest. Discourage changes that could influence your status or reputation. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't learn the hard way. Do your research before you get caught up in something that will end up costing you physically, emotionally or financially. Problems will arise if you don't abide by the rules. Be careful while traveling. *****

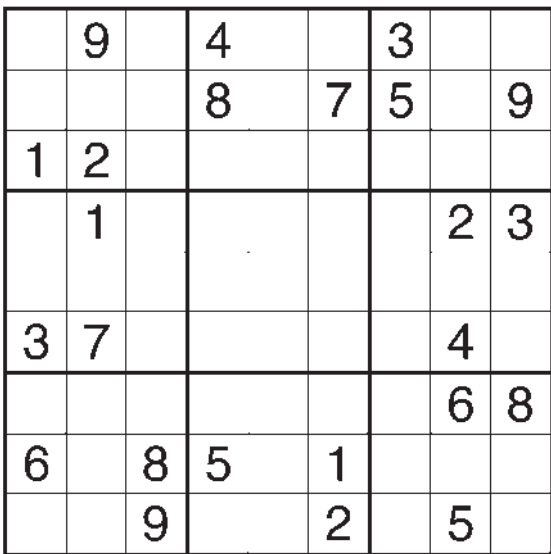
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Partnership plans or signing up to help someone will encourage you to put in more time developing new ways to use your skills. In-depth discussions will bring you closer to your dreams. ***

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, generous and curious. You are a dreamer and a contributor.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

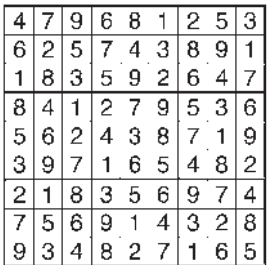
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LAWNS Solution: 12 letters

E E B S S A R G E U L B H T C
D C E H N E E R G Y B G U R L
A C N E L A N N U A L S I E O
H O T A A F I D C R E C Y A V
S B G T N D O R E D K U D T E
E W R H D E O O R E A L O M R
D E A O O W T S T R F M P E Y
A T S T N C F N H B E S I N E
L S S R E E K A I A A C L T G
B P I O A R D E I A P L C E R
T O W N P O I R Y L M E L O A
R R C A N M C N A E I U M E S
E T R E T E O N G G G O D M S
E K C F R U T C I I W N S O U
S E E D S S C G L E N G T H N

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Rockets acquire Chris Paul from Clippers in 8-player deal



HOUSTON (AP)—Chris Paul is heading to Houston to join James Harden, giving the Rockets two All-Stars in the backcourt to lead their chase for a championship.

In the NBA's second blockbuster trade in less than a week, the Rockets acquired Paul from the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday in exchange for Patrick Beverley, Lou Williams, Sam Dekker, Montrezl Harrell, Darrun Hilliard, DeAndre Liggins, Kyle Wiltjer, a protected first-round pick next year and cash considerations. The Rockets acquired Hilliard from Detroit and Liggins from Dallas for cash considerations before adding them to the deal.

"It's a weapons race in the NBA and you're either in the weapons race or on the sidelines," Houston general manager Daryl Morey said. "We felt like with James Harden in his prime and Chris Paul in his prime this gives us a real shot to chase the juggernaut teams that are out there. This puts us right there with them."

Both the Clippers and Houston will look far different next season than they did in again falling short in the playoffs. The roster overhauls came five days after Minnesota sent three players to Chicago for All-Star Jimmy Butler to kick things off with NBA free agency opening Saturday.

The 32-year-old Paul will be playing for his third team after opting in for the last year of his contract so the Clippers could work on a deal.

Morey wanted to get this deal done early so Paul could help Harden woo free agents



to Houston.

"Now that we have James and Chris I think people are going to look in free agency and say: 'Hey I can make this money there but maybe for close to the money but not quite as much I'm going to come to Houston and try to win a ring,'" he said. "So that's a big difference walk-

ing in with that kind of a situation."

Paul is a nine-time All-Star who has averaged 18.7 points, 9.9 assists, 4.4 rebounds and 2.3 steals over his 12-year career, though he has been dogged with criticism in recent years for failing to help the Clippers get out of the second round

of the playoffs. Los Angeles reached the postseason in each of Paul's six seasons with the team, but the Clippers were eliminated in the first round three times and in the Western Conference semifinals three other times.

Perhaps the most crushing playoff series loss of his tenure with the Clippers came to the

In this Feb. 24, 2016, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul (3) goes up under the basket, next to Denver Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried (35) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

Rockets in 2015. Los Angeles had a 3-1 lead in the conference semifinals before Houston won the last three games of the series to send Paul and the Clippers home early yet again.

The Clippers were eliminated in the first round the past two seasons and Paul isn't the only star who may be leaving. Blake Griffin informed the team last week that he is opting out of the last year of his contract to explore free agency. J.J. Redick also is a free agent.

In Houston, Paul joins a team that was eliminated by the San Antonio Spurs in the conference semifinals. With Harden's move to point guard last season, Paul's role will probably be a bit different than it has been in Los Angeles.

But he will add another scoring dimension in replacing Beverley in the starting lineup. Beverley received NBA defensive first team honors last week, but averaged just 9.3 points in his five seasons with the Rockets.

Coach Mike D'Antoni knows the biggest question people have is how Harden and Paul will play together. But he isn't worried about that and said it will be a joy to have both of them on his team.

"You can sit around all day and say why it wouldn't work, but it does because they want it to work," D'Antoni said.

"And I know James and Chris want it to work and that's all it takes."

Beverley is the only Houston starter involved in the deal, with Williams and Dekker playing reserve roles last season. Both Morey and D'Antoni admitted shipping Beverley off was a tough decision.

"Any trade you feel great about one thing and bad about another," D'Antoni said. "I've probably coached 160 guys in this league and (Beverley's) one of the top 5. Just his heart and soul and what he does so you hate that. But Chris Paul is Chris Paul and I've thought for the last 10 years that he was the best point guard in the league until I coached James, obviously. So it's great to have both of them."

Williams, the 2014-15 NBA Sixth Man of the Year, was traded to the Rockets from the Los Angeles Lakers in February. He averaged 14.9 points and three rebounds in 23 games for Houston.

Dekker, the 18th pick in the 2015 draft, missed all but three games as a rookie because of back surgery. The small forward was healthy this season and appeared in 77 games and averaged 6.3 points and 3.6 rebounds. Harrell, a second-round pick in 2015, averaged 6.9 points and 2.9 rebounds in two seasons in Houston. Wiltjer spent most of his rookie season last year in the D-league after going undrafted out of Gonzaga.

Houston also acquired Ryan Kelly from Atlanta and Tim Quarterman from Portland for cash considerations and Shawn Long from Philadelphia for a future second-round pick and cash considerations.

NEW YORK (AP)—Phil Jackson wanted to trade Carmelo Anthony and wouldn't rule out dealing Kristaps Porzingis.

Turns out, Jackson is the one leaving.

Jackson is out as New York Knicks president after he oversaw one of the worst eras in team history, with the team saying in a statement Wednesday that they had "mutually agreed to part company."

Days after Jackson reiterated his desire to move Anthony and said he would listen to deals for Porzingis, Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan reversed course and cut ties with Jackson with two years remaining on his contract.

"After careful thought and consideration, we mutually agreed that the Knicks will be going in a different direction," Dolan said. "Phil Jackson is one of the most celebrated and successful individuals in the history of the NBA. His lega-

Knicks, Phil Jackson part ways after dismal 3-year run

cy in the game of basketball is unmatched."

But his work as a first-time executive was awful. The winner of an NBA-record 11 championships as coach, Jackson couldn't engineer one playoff berth while running the Knicks. The team was 80-166 in his three full seasons, including a franchise-worst 17-65 in 2014-15.

His departure was quickly welcomed by Knicks fans such as film director Spike Lee, who posted a picture of himself on Instagram in a celebratory pose after it was first reported by The Vertical.

The move comes less than a week after Jackson led the Knicks through the NBA draft and on the eve of free agency that opens Saturday. Dolan said he would not be involved in the operation of the team, adding that general manager Steve Mills would run the day-

to-day business in the short term and that former Toronto executive Tim Leiweke would advise him and help develop a plan going forward.

Jackson was a Hall of Fame coach with the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers, delivering titles with some of the game's biggest stars like Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. He also played for the Knicks when they won NBA titles in 1970 and 1973.

He was welcomed back to the organization with a \$60 million contract to huge fanfare in March 2014, but it soon became clear the transition would be a poor one. His first coaching hire, Derek Fisher, lasted just 1½ seasons, and Jackson's trades and free agency moves also failed to improve the club.

"I had hoped, of course, to bring another NBA champion-

ship to the Garden. As someone who treasures winning, I am deeply disappointed that we weren't able to do that," Jackson said. "New York fans deserve nothing less. I wish them and the Knicks organization all the best—today and always."

The turbulence he created off the court may have led to his departure more than the Knicks' record on it.

Jackson publicly talked about moving without Anthony—angering the National Basketball Players Association—though the All-Star forward has two years left on the five-year, \$124 million deal that Jackson gave him shortly after taking the job. Anthony has a no-trade clause and has said he wants to stay in New York, and the stalemate that hung over the team for much of last season threatened to linger throughout the summer.

Then Jackson said before

the draft that he was listening to offers for Porzingis, the 21-year-old forward from Latvia whom he drafted with the No. 4 pick in 2015 in one of his few successful moves.

Coach Jeff Hornacek, in Orlando with the Knicks' team preparing for summer league, thanked Jackson for bringing him to New York last summer.

"It's a tough day for us but our group, really our focus is to get this team better, continue to build our young players and figure out a way to win," Hornacek said. "We have a lot of time before the regular season and we will figure that out."

Jackson believed the Knicks would compete for a playoff berth last season after he traded for Derrick Rose, signed Joakim Noah and Courtney Lee and hired Hornacek. But after a solid start, they quickly spiraled toward their familiar position at the bottom of the

Eastern Conference and finished 31-51.

Despite all that, Dolan said during an ESPN Radio interview in February that he would allow Jackson to finish his contract, and the sides picked up the mutual two-year option on Jackson's contract.

But the instability involving Anthony and Porzingis threatened to damage the team's ability to lure free agents and may have spurred Dolan's decision. Though he had been intent on keeping Jackson, the dysfunction within the franchise showed no sign of ending even as Jackson, 71, largely stayed out of sight.

He never spoke to the media last season after vowing openness upon taking the job and refused to provide Anthony with the communication he sought.

"It's like a total train wreck," tennis great and Knicks fan John McEnroe told The Associated Press last week.



WASHINGTON (AP)—Stephen Strasburg struck out 13 in seven

innings, Bryce Harper had two doubles and two RBIs, and the Washington Nationals beat the Chicago Cubs 8-4 on Wednesday.

Anthony Rendon and Matt Wieters hit back-to-back homers against John Lackey (5-9) during Washington's four-run second inning. After the Cubs pulled within three at 6-3, Daniel Murphy went deep in the fifth.

It was a rough day for the Cubs, who cut veteran catcher Miguel Montero after he criticized pitcher Jake Arrieta for his role in the Nationals' seven steals in Tuesday's 6-1 win over the World Series champions. Then reigning NL MVP Kris Bryant departed in the sixth with an apparent right ankle injury.

Strasburg (9-2) allowed three runs, two earned, and four hits.

Angels 3, Dodgers 2

In Anaheim, California, Ben Revere scored the winning run from second base on a passed ball and a throwing error by catcher Yasmani Grandal, and the Los Angeles Angels blew a ninth-inning lead before beating the Dodgers.

Cameron Maybin ended up with a walk-off strikeout of sorts when Grandal lost control of Pedro Baez's third strike and then put his throw over Chase Utley's head at first, allowing Revere to score in bizarre fashion.

Grandal had just hit a tying homer off Cam Bedrosian (2-0) with two outs in the ninth for the Dodgers, but the Angels rallied against Baez (2-1) to send the NL leaders to just their third loss in 20 games.

Andreton Simmons hit a two-run homer in the sixth for the Angels.

Yankees 12, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Miguel Andujar

Strasburg a strikeout king in Nationals win

had three hits and four RBIs in his major league debut, Aaron Judge added his major league-leading 27th homer and the struggling New York Yankees pounded the White Sox.

Andujar made a good impression after being called up from Triple-A with Matt Holliday going on the disabled list because of an illness. He gave New York a 3-0 lead with a two-run single against Carlos Rodon (0-1) in the first. He also singled in the third, walked in the eighth and drove in two more with a double in the ninth.

Judge's two-run drive capped a five-run sixth against reliever Jake Petricka, breaking open a 3-2 game. And New York came away with a lopsided win after dropping 11 of 14.

Masahiro Tanaka (6-7) went six innings for his first win since May 8. The right-hander gave up two runs and six hits after going 0-6 in his previous eight starts.

Indians 5, Rangers 3

In Cleveland, Trevor Bauer pitched into the seventh inning, Michael Brantley drove in two runs and Cleveland got the win in manager Terry Francona's return to the team.

Francona was cleared to come back after another health scare forced him to leave Monday's game and miss Tuesday's 2-1 loss to Texas. The 58-year-old Francona has been fitted with a heart monitor, but he said doctors have ruled out any serious health issues.

Bauer (7-6) allowed one run—Robinson Chirinos' homer—and four hits in 6 1/3 innings. Brantley had RBI singles in the third and the seventh.

Texas ace Yu Darvish (6-6) gave up three runs — two earned — in six innings.

Astros 11, Athletics 8

In Houston, Josh Reddick and

George Springer had three hits apiece and combined for five RBIs, powering Houston to the victory.

Michael Feliz (4-1) struck out two in a scoreless fifth for the win. Ken Giles struck out two in the ninth for his 18th save.

The Astros jumped in front with five runs in the third. Springer hit an RBI double and scored on Reddick's base hit, helping Houston open a 9-5 lead.

Oakland right-hander Jesse Hahn was charged with six runs and nine hits in two-plus innings.

Mets 8, Marlins 0

In Miami, Steven Matz pitched seven innings and two relievers completed a seven-hitter, helping the Mets to the victory.

Asdrubal Cabrera and Curtis Granderson each hit a two-run homer in support of Matz (2-1), who allowed six hits, all singles, and one walk while lowering his ERA to 2.67 in four starts this year.

Matz's performance gave the rotation a welcome lift hours after right-hander Robert Gsellman became the sixth Mets starting pitcher to go on the disabled list this season. Gsellman strained his left hamstring Tuesday.

Reds 4, Brewers 3

In Cincinnati, Scooter Gennett hit a two-run homer against the club that decided he no longer fit its rebuilding plans, and Billy Hamilton scored the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning for Cincinnati.

The Brewers lost starter Chase Anderson to a strained oblique. Anderson hurt his left side while striking out in the top of the second inning, a notable setback to the NL Central leaders. He is second on the club with six wins.

After Travis Shaw tied it

at 3 in the eighth with a solo homer off Drew Storen (2-2), Hamilton led off the bottom of the inning with a walk and two steals off Corey Knebel (0-1). Hamilton scored on Adam Duvall's infield single.

The game ended on an unusual play. With runners at first and third, Raisel Iglesias fanned Jesus Aguilar for the second out, and Stephen Vogt was caught trying to take second before Jonathan Villar could make it home from third on the back end of the attempted double steal. Iglesias got his 14th save in 15 chances.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 0

In Toronto, Marcus Stroman pitched five-hit ball into the eighth inning for Toronto, and Jose Bautista and Justin Smoak homered.

Stroman (8-4) bounced back nicely from his worst start of the season, a seven-run outing at Texas last Thursday. The right-hander allowed five singles and struck out seven to win for the first time since June 10 at Seattle.

Wade Miley (3-6) was charged with four runs, three earned, in five innings. The Orioles had won three in a row.

Twins 4, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Adalberto Mejia pitched 5 2/3 innings in his second straight scoreless start, Max Kepler hit a two-run homer and Minnesota rebounded from two consecutive losses against Boston.

Kepler also had an RBI single, and Miguel Sano added an RBI double to help the Twins improve to 24-11 on the road.

Royals 8, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Salvador Perez and Mike Moustakas hit consecutive homers during Kansas City's four-run fourth inning.

Ian Kennedy (2-6) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings for the Royals, earning his second victory in three starts. He gave up solo homers to Miguel Cabrera and Alex Avila, but only after Kansas City had jumped to a 5-0 lead.

Pirates 6, Rays 2

In Pittsburgh, Jose Osuna doubled twice and drove in two runs, rookie Josh Bell hit his 15th homer and Pittsburgh jumped all over Tampa Bay's Blake Snell.

Osuna's ground-rule RBI double sparked a four-run rally with two out in the first. Bell led off the fourth with a home run and Osuna added another RBI double in the fifth.

Snell (0-5) walked five in five innings in his return to the starting rotation after a stint in Triple-A. He was charged with six runs and four hits.

Cardinals 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Adam Wainwright pitched into the seventh inning, Yadier Molina and Jedd Gyorko each drove in two runs and St. Louis held on to beat Arizona.

Wainwright (8-5) limited the Diamondbacks to two runs and eight hits over 6 1/3 innings. He struck out eight.

Gyorko's RBI double in the eighth pushed St. Louis' lead to 4-2.

The Diamondbacks nearly tied it against Trevor Rosenthal in the ninth. Brandon Drury led off with a walk and advanced to second on a wild pitch. One out later, Chris Herrmann walked and both runners advanced on pinch-hitter Gregor Blanco's grounder. Drury then scored on Rosenthal's wild pitch, with Herrmann moving up to third.

After a walk to Daniel Des-

calso, Rosenthal got David Peralta on a grounder to pick up his fourth save.

Padres 7, Braves 4

In San Diego, Luis Perdomo pitched five scoreless innings and Hunter Renfroe and Cory Spangenberg contributed two RBIs apiece to lead San Diego.

Carlos Asuaje and Erick Aybar had three hits each for the Padres.

Perdomo (3-4), winless after his first 10 starts, won for the third time in his last four outings. The right-hander went 5 1/3 innings and was charged with four runs and seven hits. He struck out four and walked two.

Phillies 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Tommy Joseph led off the ninth inning with his 13th homer and Andrew Knapp added a two-out RBI single, helping the Phillies rally for the road win.

Joseph's drive to left on a 3-2 pitch from Edwin Diaz (2-3) was Philadelphia's first hit since the third inning. Diaz struck out the next two batters, but Cameron Perkins walked and advanced on a balk before Knapp lined a 1-2 pitch into right field to give the Phillies the lead.

Giants 5, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Jae-Gyun Hwang homered in his major league debut, a tiebreaking drive in the sixth inning that helped the Giants extend the Rockies' losing streak to a season-high eight games.

The 29-year-old Hwang grounded out in the second inning, hit a run-scoring grounder in the fourth that cut Colorado's lead to 2-1, and then broke a 3-3 tie when he homered against Kyle Freeland (8-6). Hwang was given a standing ovation from fans as he rounded the bases and was mobbed by teammates when he got back to the dugout.

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Chiefs sign Andy Reid to extension, part with GM John Dorsey



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Andy Reid and John Dorsey arrived

with the Kansas City Chiefs within weeks of each other, the coach and general manager given the massive undertaking of turning around a 2-14 franchise.

Reid will head into Year 5 by himself.

The Chiefs announced Thursday they had signed their coach to a contract extension, and then revealed less than an hour later that they parted ways with their GM. Those were massive decisions handed down by chairman Clark Hunt in a pair of statements on what is typically a quiet week in the offseason.

"My family and I have been very pleased by the success the franchise has sustained over the last four seasons under Coach Reid," Hunt said. "He has already established himself as one of the best coaches in the league, and he is well on his way to solidifying a place among the all-time greats."

It wasn't just Reid that got the Chiefs on the winning track, though.

Dorsey arrived from Green Bay with a reputation for being a savvy scout, his track record working in the front office of the Packers seemingly impeccable. And over the past



four seasons, he managed to turn a roster with a few big names but little depth into one of the strongest in the league.

It still wasn't enough to keep his job with the Chiefs.

Just like Reid, Dorsey was entering the final year of a five-year contract. But unlike his close friend, he was informed by Hunt that his contract would not be extended. So the two agreed to part ways now rather than wait until next offseason, leaving a significant void in the front office.

Hunt did not say who will handle the GM duties on an interim basis, though Reid juggled coaching and personnel decisions in Philadelphia with varying levels of success.

"This decision, while a difficult one, allows John to pursue other opportunities as we continue our preparations for the upcoming season and the seasons to come," Hunt said.

Hunt did not say why he thought the organization needed

to move in a different direction, nor was he made available to answer questions. But despite all the wise decisions Dorsey made in revamping the once-downtrodden franchise, he also made numerous decisions that left him open to criticism.

The large contract given to wide receiver Dwayne Bowe was a failure. The move to sign linebacker Tamba Hali to a \$21 million deal was made worse by an administrative error that resulted in \$4 mil-

lion in additional dead money. Then there was the signing of wide receiver Jeremy Maclin, during which the Chiefs were found guilty of tampering, docked draft picks and levied a substantial fine.

Maclin was given a \$55 million, five-year deal, but injuries, productivity and salary cap woes forced Dorsey to release Maclin this offseason—in a voicemail, no less.

That situation also demonstrated a problem that has plagued Reid and Dorsey since their arrival: management of the salary cap. The Chiefs have been consistently strapped for cash, and that led to the ouster of salary cap guru Trip MacCracken from the front office.

Still, Dorsey uncovered plenty of gems during his tenure. He also swung the deal for quarterback Alex Smith to stabilize the most important spot on the field, and boldly moved up in this year's draft to take Patrick Mahomes II and give Kansas City its quarterback of the future.

"I want to thank Clark, the

Hunt family and the Chiefs fans for the opportunity to be a part of Chiefs Kingdom over the last four seasons," he said in a statement. "I believe this team is well positioned for the future and I wish Coach Reid, the players and the entire organization all the best."

While Dorsey mulls his future, Reid heads into a season filled with expectations.

Most of the team that went 12-4 and won its first division title since 2010 returns intact, and there is reason to believe the Chiefs could be even better. Top linebacker Justin Houston will be healthy after dealing with knee trouble last season; the secondary has been solidified after safety Eric Berry signed a long-term extension; and rookie running back Kareem Hunt gives the offense another weapon.

Smith is also entering what could be a make-or-break season. His contract next year makes it pricey to keep him and cheap to let him go, so the veteran quarterback has even more incentive for a career year.

"We've made quite a bit of progress over the last four seasons, but we are not done yet," Reid said in a statement. "We are going to continue to work toward our ultimate goal of winning championships. I've been blessed by the support of the community, our fans, the Hunt family and the entire Chiefs staff. I'm looking forward to the years ahead as the head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs."

KONQER

From Page 40

Sports is working alongside the Marianas Visitors Authority to bring KONQER to Saipan on Sept. 9, making it the first obstacle course challenge in the CNMI.

"Because this is the first time [for KONQER on Saipan], we have to do it right," said MVA board member Jerry Tan. "I am happy to see people put an event together that has proven successful in the region."

Both MVA and host hotel Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan hope to attract more visitors

to the island through another sports tourism event.

"Considering the CNMI's strong reputation for sports tourism that attracts athletes from around the region and beyond, Fiesta Resort & Spa is proud to be the host resort for the first ever KONQER Saipan on Sept. 9," said Wendi Herring, Fiesta Saipan & Spa general manager. "It is very exciting to have a new event such as this coming to our island and we look forward to contributing to its success. At Fiesta Saipan, we believe that teamwork and physical activities should be enjoyed

and encouraged. KONQER shares our vision of grit and fun, and together we hope to inspire our community to challenge themselves both physically and mentally and to thoroughly enjoy the spirit of accomplishment."

The Saipan event will be held at the new Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico, and will feature multiple divisions to allow participants to tailor their KONQER experience.

"Our completion division allows solo participants or teams of up to 20 people to go through the course at their own pace, helping each other

along the way," said Endo.

"In addition, we have solo and team divisions that allow athletes to test their limits and try to make it through the entire course with the fastest time. That's one of the aspects that really attracts people to KONQER — you don't have to be a super athlete to enjoy the course and have a great time."

Online registration and additional information is available at konqersports.com, and early bird pricing is offered to the first 200 people to register. As with all KONQER events, kids 14 and under may go through the course for free, with the

supervision of a parent. All parents must register their kids online at konqersports.com to secure their free spot.

"Our vision is to promote wellness through play, and we are so fortunate to have local partners like MVA, Fiesta Resort & Spa and Bank of Guam to help us bring that vision to Saipan," said Endo. "With their support, we are able to offer free entries to kids, in hopes of creating the spark for a lifetime of health and wellness."

For more information, contact Kelli Wedd at support@konqersports.com, or visit konqersports.com. (PR)

LEE

From Page 40

in the second round, 6-0, 6-1.

Lee, who won her first doubles title in Morocco last month and got two singles and doubles crowns in New Caledonia, will gun for her first championships in the ITF Juniors Circuit today when she and Ng face the unranked Ikumi Yamazaki and Hikaru Yoshikawa of Japan. The unseeded Japanese advanced to the finals after pulling off an upset over No. 8 Mami Mitsumoto and Mua Shigeta in the semis game at the lower half of the draw, 6-3, 6-1. Yoshikawa and

Yamazaki also stunned two other seeded pairs to move into the semifinals, beating first No. 1 Patricia Apisah of Papua New Guinea and Roopa Bains of Australia, 7-5, 6-3, before ousting No. 6 Luciana Kunkel of Australia and Kiana Mokhtari of Great Britain, 6-3, 6-3.

Meanwhile, in the singles event, Lee is also in contention after barging into the Final Four. The No. 1 seed swept Australia's Kelsey Lewis, 6-3, 6-3; Solomon Islands' Georjemah Row, 6-3, 6-2; and Japan's Yuna Ohashi, 7-5, 6-4, to make it to the semis. Joining Lee in the Final Four were No. 14 Imamura, and the unranked

Yoshikawa and American Elle Christensen.

Heras and Conatsu also played in the singles with the former surviving the second round and the latter dropping her first game. Heras drew a bye in the opening round and won over Tada in the second, 7-5, 7-5, before bowing to Hayashige in the third, 2-6, 7-5, 6-0, while Conatsu fell to Japan's Ayaka Koga, 1-6, 0-6.

In the boys singles, the CNMI's Robbie Schorr also prevailed in his first match against Australia's Andrew Ilett, 6-3, 6-1, before absorbing a 2-6, 3-6 defeat at the hands of New Zealand and No. 8 Te Kani Williams.

ASPAC

From Page 40

Despite not playing in the finale, Chinese-Taipei proved that it deserved the championship as seen in their dominance in the elimination round. No team scored against Chinese-Taipei in this year's ASPAC as the four-time World Series champion routed the Philippines in Games 1 and 2 in similar scores, 19-0; crushed the CNMI, 18-0, and 13-0; and whipped Hong Kong, 18-0, and 10-0.

With its lopsided wins in the ASPAC, Chinese-Taipei will head to Taylor, Michigan next month to gun for an un-

precedented fifth championship in the Junior League. The World Series will be played at the Heritage Park from Aug. 13 to 20.

As for the Philippine side, it will travel to Easley, South Carolina, which will host the Senior League World Series from July 29 to Aug. 5 at the Easley Recreation Complex.

With the PH players' finals game against Guam suspended, the former's thrilling 8-7 victory against the latter last Wednesday proved to be the deciding factor in the ASPAC.

Before eking out the close win against Guam, the Philippines dropped its opener against the same team.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	42	34	.553	—
Boston	43	35	.551	—
Tampa Bay	41	39	.513	3
Baltimore	38	39	.494	4½
Toronto	37	40	.481	5½

Central Division

Cleveland	41	36	.532	—
Minnesota	40	36	.526	½
Kansas City	38	38	.500	2½
Detroit	34	43	.442	7
Chicago	33	44	.429	8

West Division

Houston	53	26	.671	—
Los Angeles	42	40	.512	12½
Texas	39	39	.500	13½
Seattle	39	41	.488	14½
Oakland	35	43	.449	17½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	47	31	.603	—
Atlanta	37	40	.481	9½
Miami	35	41	.461	11
New York	35	42	.455	11½
Philadelphia	26	51	.338	20½

Central Division

Milwaukee	41	39	.513	—
Chicago	39	39	.500	1
St. Louis	36	41	.468	3½
Pittsburgh	36	42	.462	4
Cincinnati	33	44	.429	6½

West Division

Los Angeles	52	28	.650	—
Arizona	50	29	.633	1½
Colorado	47	34	.580	5½
San Diego	32	46	.410	19
San Francisco	30	51	.370	22½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Former CNMI National Team member Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho continues to show the fine form that won him numerous titles in local competitions in the past, as he topped last Saturday’s 16th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament.

Less than a month after ruling the Senior Flight of the elite Governor’s Tournament of Champions, Camacho returned to the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort and scored a net 68 to prevail in the double-peoria tournament. Camacho, who had a 6 handicap, shot a 2-over par 38 on the front nine and an even par 36 on the back for a gross 74—the second best score in the field behind the 70 of former CNMI junior golfer Ryan Kim.

“It feels great to win tournaments again after I came back,” said Camacho, who returned home just early this

year after leaving Saipan for Washington.

“While I enjoy competing and winning, I also want to help train our junior golfers and share to them my knowledge in the sport,” added Camacho, who works with CNMI Hall of Famer Tony Satur in training junior golfers at Laolao’s west and east courses.

The veteran golfer, who represented the Commonwealth in the South Pacific Games in the early 2000s, is also the player/coach of the CNMI Team that will compete in the Pacific Mini Games this December in Port Villa, Vanuatu.

“The players are doing well. They are putting in the time needed to prepare them for the competition. The good thing about this team is they have a lot of time to train and work on their strokes,” said Camacho.

Meanwhile, Woo Young Lee finished second behind Camacho after beating Gerald Guerrero in a scorecard tiebreak. Woo and Guerrero

Two in a row for ‘Kamikaze’



had identical net scores of 68.60 with the former posting a gross 83 and the latter logging an 89. Feng Chun Jin (net 69) and Frank Sablan (69.40) rounded out the Top 5 finishers, who received cash and in-kind prizes from the organizing Hotel Association on Northern Mariana Islands and tournament sponsors.

HANMI also recognized the No. 6 to No. 15 placers in the competition. Jayson John was ranked No. 6 after recording and net 69.40 and was followed by Yuko Togawa (69.60), Kim (70), David Largent (70.20), James Han (70.20), J.J. Atalig (70.40), Lito Mendoza (70.60), Peter Tenorio (70.80), Lucio Aldan (70.80), and Joey Dela Cruz (71).



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho, left, smiles after receiving his prize in the 16th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament from HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh during the awards ceremony for the double-peoria competition last Saturday at the Grandvrio Hotel.

Sun Palace, Kanoa down opponents

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Sun Palace and Matansa Football Club won their Division B matches in the M-League last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Sun Palace was pitted against Korean Football Association and notched a 3-1 victory to remain at the top half of the team standings in the division. Sun Palace has 6-1-4 win-draw-loss record for No. 4 in the rankings behind Shirley’s Football Club 1 (9-2-0), Shirley’s FC 2 (6-4-1), and Kanoa (6-2-3).

Qiwei Wang towed Sun Palace to its sixth win after knocking in a pair of goals with his first made in the 12th minute and the second in the 47th. Feng Yu hit the other goal for Sun Palace in the 46th minute, while Scott Kim

handed KFAS its lone goal in the 26th. KFAS is at the No. 6 spot in the team standings in the eight-squad field with its 3-2-6 mark.

In the other game played last Sunday, Matansa outclassed Kanoa, 3-1.

Three different players scored for Matansa with Amzad Khan drawing first blood after converting a penalty kick in the 16th minute. Gabriel Arkoh made it a 2-0 advantage for Kanoa with his shot in the 32nd before Brian Lubao moved Kanoa within one with his goal five minutes later. However, Matansa got the one goal back, thanks to Kamrul Kamrul, who found the back of the net in the 53rd minute.

With the victory, Matansa improved its record to 4-3-4 and kept the No. 5 spot in the team standings.

Meanwhile, Shirley’s 2 and the Thundercats were also

scheduled to play last weekend, but a no-show from the latter awarded the former the victory.

Shirley’s 2 will return to action this Sunday when it takes on Kanoa, while Shirley’s 1 is not done with its assignments this season as reported last week and is slated to face the Thundercats (1-2-8). However, Shirley’s, which will also meet Kanoa and Sun Palace in its last two matches, has zeroed in on the division championship as it is three wins ahead of Kanoa, Shirley’s 2, and Sun Palace. Shirley’s 1 is highly favored to prevail against the Thundercats and the victory in this weekend’s game will make the former’s claim to the division title official.

Two more matches will take place this Sunday with the CNMI Women’s National Team (1-0-10) battling KFAS at 3:15pm and Matansa colliding against Sun Palace at 5pm.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa’s Gabriel Arkoh, left, and Amzad Khan, right, catch up on defense against a Kanoa player during their first round meeting in Division B of the M-League at the Hopwood Middle School Field.



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**Rockets acquire
Chris Paul from
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8-player deal**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Two in a
row for
'Kamikaze'**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee nears 5th ITF Juniors title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee gets ready to serve in this file photo taken during the 2016 Northern Marianas Junior Championships. Lee is in Fiji and is on course to her fifth ITF Juniors title.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is one win away from bagging her fifth ITF Juniors crown after making it to the finals of the doubles event of the Oceania Open Junior Championships 2017 yesterday in Fiji.

Lee paired with Singapore's Maxine Ng and they took the finals ticket at the top half of the draw after outlasting the Japanese pair of Yuna Ohashi and Shiho Shibata in their semis game at the Regional Tennis Centre Nadovu Park in Lautoka. The No. 1 seed Lee and Ng eased past their Japanese foes in the first set, 6-1, but failed to wrap up the semis early when Ohashi and Shibata won in the second in similar scores. Then in the deciding super-tiebreaker third set, the opposing teams went back and forth before Lee and Ng played steadier in the homestretch to eke out a 10-8 victory.

The semis game against the Japanese duo was Lee and Ng's first win via distance, as the top-ranked pair swept their two foes earlier. In the second round, Lee and Ng downed Saki Imamura and Kaede Tada of Japan, 6-4, 6-3. Then in the quarterfinals the CNMI-Singapore tandem defeated another Japanese duo in Kanami Hayashige and Ayaka Koga, 6-1, 7-5.

Koha and Hayashige advanced to the quarterfinals

after eliminating the CNMI's Maria Isabel Heras and Australia's Chloe Katerdigan, 6-3, 6-1, while Imamura and Tada



another Commonwealth player Co-natsu Kaga and Vanuatu's Rosalie Molbaleh

See LEE on Page 38



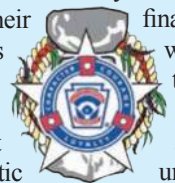
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Chinese-Taipei players delivers a pitch against the Philippines during the top of the third inning of their game in the Junior League division of the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Chinese-Taipei, PH top ASPAC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Chinese-Taipei and the Philippines are World Series bound after topping their respective divisions in the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament that had an anticlimactic conclusion yesterday.



Chinese-Taipei ruled the Junior League, while the Philippines prevailed in the Senior League even without playing in the pair of title matches that were cancelled due to rain. ASPAC organizers decided to award the win to Chinese-Taipei based on its perfect record in the double-round elimination, while the Philippines also won it all as it finished first in the

preliminary phase of the World Series qualifier with its 3-1 record. The PH bets were supposed to play in yesterday's Senior League finals against Guam, which wrapped up the elimination with a 2-2 card. In the Junior League, the unbeaten Chinese-Taipei was scheduled to meet the Philippines, which placed second in the preliminary round after logging a 3-3 mark.

ASPAC organizers will inform the Little League headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania about their decision and the latter will make the official announcement of the winners.

See ASPAC on Page 38

Konquer promotes wellness through play in Palau, Saipan up next

After a successful first expansion into Palau, the KONQER team looks ahead to launching the first obstacle course challenge in the CNMI, according to Kaz Endo, KONQER Sports chief experience officer.

"We started discussions to expand to Palau about two years ago, and some of our business analysts believed the market was too small to support an event like KONQER," said Endo. "But, the overwhelmingly positive response from participants, spectators and sponsors smashed all doubt, and KONQER Palau has set a new bar for all future events."

KONQER partnered with the Palau Visitors Authority to launch the first-of-a-kind

obstacle course event on the island, with the vision of promoting wellness through play.

"It exceeded our expectations, given



it's new to Palau," said Kadoi Ruluked, PVA marketing and research manager. "We are going to do this every year and turn

it into one of our signature events that locals and tourists alike will enjoy."

Similar to Palau, KONQER

See KONQER on Page 38



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant tries to hurdle the warped wall in this file photo. The first obstacle course challenge in the CNMI will be held on Sept. 9 when KONQER Saipan makes it debut at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico.